

PRESS RELEASE
Friday 22 July 2022

BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES TOM FETHERSTONHAUGH AS 2022/23 ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR



Tom Fetherstonhaugh becomes the BSO's 2022/23 Assistant Conductor ©BSO

- **Tom Fetherstonhaugh** from London is announced as Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's **Assistant Conductor** for its 2022/23 season.
- The **bursary-supported training position** is designed to provide a platform to launch a professional career through **performance opportunities and mentoring**, including from the Orchestra's world-leading guest conductors and musicians.
- Two days of auditions took place at **Lighthouse, Poole** with **9 finalists** competing for the position. The winner was selected by a vote from the Orchestra's musicians.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) announces Tom Fetherstonhaugh as its Assistant Conductor for the 2022/23 concert season. The bursary-supported role will provide a platform to build

professional experience and development, with mentoring from some of the world's leading names in classical music.

Tom Fetherstonhaugh from London has today (Friday 22 July) been announced as **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's 2022/23 Assistant Conductor**, having won a vote from the Orchestra's musicians at Lighthouse, Poole.

The bursary-supported training position is designed to offer a platform to build professional experience through performance opportunities and mentoring from the BSO's world-leading conductors and musicians, which include Chief Conductor **Kirill Karabits**, Principal Guest Conductor **Mark Wigglesworth**, and Associate Guest Conductor **David Hill**.

The role — which was previously known as the BSO Young Conductor in Association — was previously held by **Marta Gardolińska**, who is rapidly developing into one of the most exciting young conductors and has since worked with the LA Philharmonic and Gustavo Dudamel. Gardolińska, who gained international attention during her tenure with the BSO, was last year appointed as Music Director of Opéra national de Lorraine.

Tom Fetherstonhaugh trained with Roland Melia and later with Sian Edwards at the Royal Academy of Music, where he graduated with Distinction in 2021. He is the founder of Fantasia Orchestra, which has recently been joined in concert by soloists including Alim Beisembayev, Jess Gillam, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, and Tasmin Little. Tom's engagements this season have included conducting the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra 'Playing to Inspire' project with the Kanneh-Mason family, and assisting Francesco Cilluffo on Verdi's *Macbeth* at The Grange Festival with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

Tom Fetherstonhaugh, the BSO's 2022/23 Assistant Conductor said: *"I'm thrilled to have been appointed Assistant Conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. It is an exciting opportunity to work with, and learn from, this outstanding orchestra across their season. The competition process has been really inspiring and supportive, and I can't wait to start with the BSO in September!"*

Dougie Scarfe, the Orchestra's Chief Executive said: *"It's been fantastic to witness this group of impressive finalists work with the Orchestra over the past few days. We were delighted at the large range of applications received, which, given events of recent years and the limited opportunities for musicians on the cusp of an international career, is a reminder of how vital and necessary these professional development opportunities are."*

"The BSO has a long history of supporting emerging talent — I'm proud that we've been able to offer the placement, we're really looking forward to working with Tom Fetherstonhaugh over the coming season."

The Assistant Conductor plays a key part in the BSO's 2022/23 season, and will also work with

inclusive ensembles **BSO Resound** and **RNS Moves** in presenting a **newly-commissioned work by Kate Whitley** next spring.

Alongside welcoming world-leading conductors and soloists to venues throughout the South West as it continues symphonic touring, the Orchestra's 2022/23 season unveils brand-new works and previously unknown music through its **'Voices from the East' series under Kirill Karabits**. It also welcomes the return of **Artist-in-Residence, Felix Klieser** and continues to livestream many of its main season concerts, having **reached almost 100,000 global viewers** since 2020.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's 2022/23 symphonic season returns to venues throughout the South West — and via digital livestream — from 5 October. For full details visit [bsolive.com](https://www.bsolive.com)

The Assistant Conductor role in 2022/23 has been generously supported by The Calleva Foundation, in memory of Jack Butt.

[ENDS]

Notes to Editors:

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1. [Images available here](#)
 - a) Tom Fetherstonhaugh, the BSO's 2022/23 Assistant Conductor ©BSO
 - b) The BSO at Lighthouse, Poole ©Mark Allan
 - c) Dougie Scarfe, Chief Executive of the BSO ©Mark Allan

2. **About Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra**
www.bsolive.com | @BSOrchestra

Chief Conductor – Kirill Karabits

Principal Guest Conductor – Mark Wigglesworth | Associate Guest Conductor – David Hill MBE

Conductor Emeritus – Marin Alsop | Conductor Laureate – Andrew Litton

One of the UK's best-loved orchestras, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is a **professional ensemble known for championing the role of culture in people's lives**. With residencies in Bournemouth, Bristol, Exeter, Portsmouth and Poole, it is the largest cultural provider in the South West of England, serving one of the biggest and most diverse regions.

The BSO received the **Royal Philharmonic Society's Impact Award** in 2019 for its work in improving opportunities for disabled musicians, and **BSO Resound — the world's first professional disabled-led ensemble at the core of a major orchestra** — continues to receive international attention for igniting change.

Challenging access to high-quality music for all, the BSO leads hundreds of events each year, from award-winning work in health and care settings to partnerships with schools and music education hubs.

The Orchestra, under its Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits, is known for pushing artistic boundaries, and its ongoing series of music from former Soviet states, *Voices from the East*, continues to gain praise. Boasting an enviable list of principal conductors, including Marin Alsop, the first female principal conductor of a major UK orchestra, the BSO has given memorable performances worldwide and with regular live broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM.

The Orchestra's inaugural livestreamed series, which featured Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Benjamin Grosvenor and Alina Ibragimova, was widely praised by audiences and critics alike, with **the BSO making history as one of the first British orchestras to return to the stage in 2020**. In 2021, **Horn player Felix Klieser** made a memorable UK concerto debut as the Orchestra's Artist-in-Residence, and the BSO resumed its symphonic touring of the South West.

Committed to new music, the Orchestra celebrates a triptych of contemporary symphonic works written by women in its forthcoming season, with premiere performances of works by Carmen Ho, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh and Elizabeth Ogonek. During the pandemic, the BSO also gave premieres by composers Shirley J. Thompson OBE and Magnus Lindberg.

3. The BSO's Principal Broadcast Partner is **BBC Radio 3**
4. The BSO is **Classic FM's** Orchestra in the South of England.
5. Tom Fetherstonhaugh is a British conductor and organist. Described as 'a spark to watch' by BBC Radio 3, his recent projects include conducting Tasmin Little's final concerto performances, a concert for peace in the Korean Demilitarised Zone and the development of Piers Hellawell's new piano concerto with players from the Ulster Orchestra.

Tom has conducted concerto performances with some of the country's leading soloists, including Alena Baeva, Jess Gillam, Thomas Gould, Clare Hammond, Richard Hosford, Isata Kanneh-Mason, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Tasmin Little, and Priya Mitchell.

In 2016 he founded Fantasia Orchestra, at its inception being a group of budding young musicians from junior Conservatoire departments. It has grown into an orchestra of exciting talent, with the ArtsDesk calling the strings section 'already a thing of wonder'.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Tom has developed a method for performing opera with a recorded orchestra, in theatres where social distancing prevents the players from all sitting in the orchestra pit. This was first trialled at the Royal Academy of Music in 2020, where Tom produced an orchestral recording of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He went on to deliver recordings of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for The Grange Festival in 2021: Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*.

As well as Fantasia Orchestra, Tom has conducted (in either concert or masterclass setting) the Ulster Orchestra, Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, Lindenbaum Festival Orchestra, Jersey Chamber Orchestra, Oxford University Sinfonietta, the orchestra of the Oxford Chamber Music Festival, Southbank Sinfonia, Leicester Symphony Orchestra, Hereford Symphony Orchestra, the Junior Royal Academy of Music Sinfonia, Senior Orchestra and Main Choir, the orchestra of the Pro Corda Senior Course, the choir of Merton College, Oxford, and, aged 13, the choristers of Westminster Abbey on their tour to Russia.

In summer 2019, Tom made his debut in Korea, performing in the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) with the Lindenbaum Festival Orchestra. Entitled 'One Harmony', the festival promotes peace between the Koreans through music, and the performance included a collaboration with the National Children's Chorus of America.

Tom is also active as an organist and pianist; he was organ scholar at Merton College, Oxford, and is a prizewinning Associate of the Royal College of Organists. He has played for live BBC Radio 3 broadcasts, and in 2017 played for the first Anglican Evensong at St Peter's Basilica, Rome. He has appeared as soloist in the UK, Europe, Hong Kong and Singapore, including the Oxford Chamber Music and Oxford Lieder Festivals. On the piano, Tom has recently performed the complete Beethoven Violin Sonatas with violinist Athena Hawksley-Walker in the Holywell Music Room; the duo played live on Radio 3's In Tune as part of the project.

Tom started his musical journey with the Suzuki method of violin playing. He was a chorister of Westminster Abbey where he sang for many state occasions, including performing the solo in Mealeor's *Ubi Caritas* at the 2011 Royal Wedding. As a treble, he performed at the Royal Opera House and had solo roles at English National Opera, and his voice features on film soundtracks including *Prometheus*, *Life of Pi* and *Dark Shadows*. Tom made his BBC Proms debut aged 13 as a soloist in Mahler's 'Das Klagende Lied' under Edward Gardner.

He studied violin and conducting at the Royal Academy of Music, Junior Department, and subsequently trained with conductor Roland Melia. Tom read music at Merton College, Oxford, where he held organ and academic scholarships and graduated with first class honours. He studied conducting with Sian Edwards at the Royal Academy of Music where he held the Julien Award. Tom graduated in 2021 with Distinction, winning the Norma Simpson award for his contribution to the Academy and a DipRAM prize for an outstanding final performance.

www.thomasfetherstonhaugh.com