

PRESS RELEASE

Friday 11 November 2022

ESCAPE INTO A WORLD OF MUSIC THIS CHRISTMAS WITH BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND FRIENDS



*Singer Louise Dearman, violinist Lajos Sárközy Jr. and soprano Anna Devin
join the BSO to close the year in style*

- Swing into the **New Year** as a **Viennese gala with a touch of Hungarian sparkle** visits Cheltenham, Poole, Taunton and Weymouth — featuring some very special guests!
- Join the party for the ultimate Christmas cracker as **West End star Ben Forster** leads the BSO in a series of festive favourites in Exeter, Poole and Portsmouth.
- **Handel's *Messiah*** with Baroque specialist Laurence Cummings and an evening of sing-a-long **Christmas Carols** return to Lighthouse, Poole — plus **Hollywood hits** in Bournemouth and Southampton.
- **Rural spaces in Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset** host festive fun for all the family as 'BSO On Your Doorstep' concerts take to the road.
- Unite friends and family this festive season with **concessionary tickets from £6**.

Escape into a world of music with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and friends this festive season in a series of sparkling events for all ages, from Hollywood hits to a New Year's concert with a very special Hungarian twist...

With 20 live performances taking place in venues throughout the South West this festive season there's plenty to look forward to with the BSO, from traditional choral classics and film music to smaller-scale performances in rural spaces throughout the region. With concessionary tickets starting at £6 there are experiences to suit a range of budgets to bring all ages together.

Dougie Scarfe, the Orchestra's Chief Executive said: *"We're really proud to be hosting such a broad range of live events this festive season, and can't wait to help people find those few hours of escapism and mark the start of a fresh new year. There's something for everyone, from cinematic classics to festive favourites... and we're even bringing a quiz to our rural concerts in Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset. We can't wait to welcome you for some well-deserved down time this festive season – see you there!"*

Festive favourites

For those who fancy a **traditional festive sing-along** the Celebration of Christmas Carols at Lighthouse, **Poole** [Fri 23 Dec] promises to fit the bill. Featuring enduring classics, including, *O Come All Ye Faithful*, *Hark the Herald*, and more it'll exercise those vocal chords ahead of Christmas Day.

Handel's oratorio *Messiah* is an enduring favourite of the festive season, and includes the popular aria *I Know that My Redeemer Liveth* and *Hallelujah Chorus*. Baroque specialist Laurence Cummings makes an anticipated return to Lighthouse, **Poole** [Wed 14 Dec] with singers Anna Devin, Jake Arditti, Sam Furness and Ashley Riches – and the mighty Bournemouth Symphony Chorus!

Stars of stage and screen

Actor Ben Forster, best known for West End lead performances of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *The Rocky Horror Show* joins the Orchestra for **Last Night of the Christmas Proms** – in **Poole** [Sat 17 Dec], **Exeter** [Tues 20 Dec] and **Portsmouth** [Wed 21 Dec] – in a selection of Broadway and West End hits. The ever-popular festive event is suitable for all ages and promises to have audiences dancing in the aisles.

Southampton-based community choir **BSO Voices** returns for a night of **Silver Screen Showstoppers** at **Southampton's** O2 Guildhall [Sun 4 Dec], featuring classics from *West Side Story* to *Charlie & The Chocolate Factory*. Whilst in **Bournemouth** [Sat 26 Nov], the enduring film music of **Rodgers & Hammerstein** – including favourites from *The Sound*

of Music, South Pacific and Oklahoma! – comes to life as the BSO is joined by conductor Pete Harrison and a quartet of singers from the West End.

From the Blue Danube... and throughout the South West

Prepare to herald in 2023 as the BSO welcomes special guests violinist Lajos Sárközy Jr. and cimbalom player Jenő Lisztes for a **New Year Viennese Gala** with a Hungarian twist. Conductor Gergely Madaras leads the way, with performances that feature some of the most famous waltzes, marches and polkas, to **Poole** [Sun 1 Jan], **Taunton** [Thurs 5 Jan], **Weymouth** [Fri 6 Jan] and **Cheltenham** [Sat 7 Jan].

A series of '**BSO On Your Doorstep**' **chamber concerts** offers a magical winter experience in rural spaces in Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, and Somerset. Suitable for all, these concerts feature music from across the ages – there's even a festive quiz! Performances take place in **Falmouth** [Thurs 8 Dec], **Port Isaac** [Fri 9 Dec], and **Torpoint** [Sat 10 Dec] in partnership with Carn to Cove, Cornwall's performing arts scheme for rural communities. The concerts will also reach audiences in: **Thorverton** [Sun 11 Dec], in partnership with Villages in Action; **Yeovil** [Thurs 15 Dec], in partnership with The Octagon and South Somerset District Council; and **Lychett Matravers** [Fri 9 Dec], in partnership with Artsreach.

A **dementia-friendly festive 'Cake Concert'** takes place in **Poole** [Thurs 15 Dec] at The Spire. The event features a trio of BSO musicians alongside festive treats and hot refreshments. All are welcome, whether living in the community or in care and residential settings. The events, which compliment the Orchestra's ongoing work in health and care settings throughout the region, take place throughout the year.

For those looking for some serious relaxation, the BSO brings three nights of **Smooth Classics: Violin Magic** to **Poole** [Sat 12 Nov], **Portsmouth** [Thurs 17 Nov] and **Exeter** [Thurs 24 Nov]. Broadcaster Anne-Marie Minhall guides audiences through the evening of popular relaxing favourites, with the BSO's Assistant Conductor Tom Fetherstonhaugh and violinists Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux and Benjamin Baker.

For tickets and further information about Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's festive events, see bsolive.com.

[ENDS]

Notes to Editors:

For further information please contact: Claire Rawles crawles@bsorchestra.co.uk 07860 776646 or Heidi O'Neill honeill@bsorchestra.co.uk

1. [Images available here](#)
 - a) Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
 - b) BSO Chief Executive Dougie Scarfe
 - b) Actor Ben Forster
 - c) Soprano Anna Devin
 - d) Baroque specialist Laurence Cummings
 - e) Conductor Gergely Madaras
 - f) BSO Assistant Conductor Tom Fetherstonhaugh
 - g) BSO Voices musical director Pete Harrison

2. **Concert listings** – tickets and full details at [bsolive.com](https://www.bsolive.com)

Sat 12 Nov, 7.30pm (Lighthouse, Poole)
Thur 17 Nov, 7.30pm (Guildhall, Portsmouth)
Thurs 24 Nov, 7.30pm (Great Hall, Exeter)

Smooth Classics: Violin Magic

Tom Fetherstonhaugh *conductor*
 Benjamin Baker *violin*
 Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux *violin*
 Anne-Marie Minhall *presenter*
 Join Anne-Marie Minhall and the BSO for a selection of the most relaxing music written. Featuring works by Grieg, Bruch, Shostakovich and many more.

Sat 26 Nov, 7pm (Bournemouth Pavilion)

The Rodgers & Hammerstein Concert

Pete Harrison *conductor*
 Laura Tebbutt, Louise Dearman, Nadim Naaman, James Spilling *singers*
 Featuring works from hit musicals *The King and I*, *Carousel*, *The Sound of Music*, *South Pacific* and *Oklahoma!*

Sun 4 Dec, 3pm (O2 Guildhall, Southampton)

Hollywood's Golden Age

Pete Harrison *conductor*
 Katherine Mount, James Spilling *singers*
 BSO Voices
 An afternoon of classic favourites from *My Fair Lady*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *The Wizard of Oz* and many more.

Thurs 8 Dec, 7.30pm (Falmouth)

Fri 9 Dec, 7.30pm (Port Isaac)

Sat 10 Dec, 7.30pm (Torpoint)

Sun 11 Dec, 3pm (Thorverton)

Thurs 15 Dec (Yeovil)

BSO On Your Doorstep: Christmas Crackers

Featuring classical favourites, from *The Nutcracker* to *The Four Seasons*... and a special festive quiz!

Fri 9 Dec, 7.30pm (Lychett Matravers)

BSO On Your Doorstep: BSO Brass Christmas Fanfare

Enjoy the spirit of Christmas with this fun concert for all the family.

Wed 14 Dec, 7.30pm (Lighthouse, Poole)

Handel's Messiah

Laurence Cummings *conductor*
 Anna Devin *soprano*
 Jake Arditti *counter-tenor*
 Sam Furness *tenor*
 Ashley Riches *baritone*
 Bournemouth Symphony Chorus
 Handel – *Messiah*

Sat 17 Dec, 7.30pm (Lighthouse, Poole)

Tues 20 Dec, 7.30pm (Exeter, Great Hall)

Wed 21 Dec, 7.30pm (Guildhall, Portsmouth)

Last Night of the Christmas Proms

Ben Forster *host*

Tom Fetherstonhaugh *conductor*

Get ready to let your hair down with the BSO for this Christmas cracker... featuring *Sleigh Ride*, *Merry Christmas Everybody* and more

Fri 23 Dec, 7.30pm (Lighthouse, Poole)

Celebration of Christmas Carols

Gavin Carr *conductor*

Bournemouth Symphony Chorus

Including traditional favourites, including everything from *Good King Wenceslas* to *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Sun 1 Jan, 3pm (Lighthouse, Poole)

Thurs 5 Jan, 7.30pm (The Brewhouse, Taunton)

Fri 6 Jan, 7.30pm (Weymouth Pavilion)

Sat 7 Jan, 7.30pm (Cheltenham Town Hall)

New Year Viennese Gala

Gergely Madaras *conductor*

Lajos Sárközy Jr. *violin*

Jenő Lisztes *cimbalom*

The traditional Viennese celebration this year also includes the Hungarian dances and rhapsodies of Brahms and Liszt

3. **About Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra**

www.bsolive.com | @BSOrchestra

Chief Conductor – Kirill Karabits | Artist-in-Residence – Felix Klieser

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

Conductor Emeritus – Marin Alsop | Conductor Laureate – Andrew Litton

Assistant Conductor – Tom Fetherstonhaugh

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 in the UK.

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 livestreamed broadcasts have cemented its reputation for presenting live symphonic music of the highest quality, and remain popular around the globe following its inaugural season in 2020.

In 2022/23, the series features artists Dame Sarah Connolly, James Ehnes, Laura van der Heijden, and a host of the UK's leading music broadcasters. Described by The Times as "one of the most inspiring figures on the concert scene today", **Horn player Felix Klieser also returns — as the Orchestra's Artist-in-Residence —** following a memorable UK concerto debut with the BSO in 2021.

Committed to new music, the BSO has presented premiere performances of works by Carmen Ho, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Magnus Lindberg, Elizabeth Ogonek and Shirley J. Thompson OBE in recent years. It celebrates the work of composer **Anna Korsun**, who becomes its Composer-in-Residence, in 2023.

The Orchestra also marks a landmark moment when inclusive ensembles BSO Resound and RNS Moves join forces for a new commission by Kate Whitley, with performances in Poole and Gateshead in early 2023. Winner of the 2019 Royal Philharmonic Society's Impact Award, 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 barriers 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, and in 2022, the Orchestra welcomed its first community-based Young Associate musicians.

4. The BSO's Principal Broadcast Partner is **BBC Radio 3**
5. The BSO is **Classic FM**'s Orchestra in the South of England.