

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 20 April 2023

BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND MAYFLOWER THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON ANNOUNCE NEW PARTNERSHIP



The BSO's musicians perform in Southampton this week ©BSO

- People in **Southampton** will have the opportunity to experience more live music as **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO)** and **Mayflower Theatre** announce a partnership to benefit all ages.
- Over the next year, the BSO will bring several **full symphonic performances** and **family-friendly chamber-scale concerts** to the South Coast's biggest theatre.
- The Grade II listed venue, which hosts a broad range of touring productions, welcomes the Orchestra and its **Southampton-based community choir, BSO Voices**, for a celebration of music by Disney composer Alan Menken on **Saturday 22 April**.

People based in and around Southampton are set to experience more live music over the coming months thanks to a new partnership between Mayflower Theatre and one of the UK's best-loved orchestras, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO).

The BSO will perform a series of concerts at both **Mayflower Theatre** and Southampton's community-led creative hub at **MAST, Mayflower Studios**.

Several **full symphonic concerts**, including film favourites by John Williams and Hans Zimmer (9 March 2024) and a New Year's Viennese Gala (6 January 2024), will take place at the 2,270-seat Mayflower Theatre – with the BSO's Southampton-based community choir, BSO Voices, joining forces in a celebration of Disney hits in the **Magic of Menken (22 April 2023)**.

At MAST Mayflower Studios, Southampton's community-led cultural hub, musicians from the Orchestra will present '**BSO On Your Doorstep**' **chamber-scale performances**. These family-friendly relaxed concerts are designed for all ages, with music spanning a broad range of genres.

Aspiring musicians will also benefit from the cultural collaboration, with future events being planned in conjunction with **Southampton and Isle of Wight Music Hub**.

Mayflower Theatre's Chief Executive, Michael Ockwell, said: *"We are very excited about our new partnership with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra isn't a stranger to Southampton having performed at venues within the city. Both Mayflower Theatre and MAST Mayflower Studios are thrilled to become a regular host for the BSO and establishing another home for their great music within Southampton. Community is of great importance to Mayflower Theatre and MAST, and we are excited to explore the potential outreach opportunities which will come from this partnership. We believe there is a great synergy between our organisations and look forward to welcoming new audiences for their concerts in our wonderful venues."*

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Chief Executive, Dougie Scarfe, said: *"We're thrilled to announce this new partnership between Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Mayflower Theatre and MAST Studios. There is a compelling dynamism for culture in Southampton, something that was brilliantly captured in its shortlisted bid for the UK's City of Culture 2025 and subsequent foundation of Southampton Culture Trust. We're excited to play a role in helping to shape the next chapter and this new partnership builds on our existing relationships with local music hubs and venue partners. We look forward to sharing more live music, developing deeper connections with local communities, and to contributing to Southampton's long-term cultural output."*

Claire Whitaker, CBE and Chief Executive of the Southampton Culture Trust, said: *"It's fantastic that the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra has formed a partnership with Mayflower Theatre, one of the most important venues in the south of England. With world class reputations, they each represent the very best the region has to offer and we very much look forward to the relationship growing over the coming years and becoming a major feature of the city's annual cultural calendar."*

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and BSO Voices unite for a celebration of hits from Disney classics in *The Magic of Menken* at Mayflower Theatre on Saturday 22 April. For full details see bsolive.com or mayflower.org.uk

[ENDS]

Notes to Editors:

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1. Images available [here](#)
 - a) Musicians of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ©Mark Allan
 - b) Musicians of the BSO ©BSO
 - c) Conductor Pete Harrison joins the BSO on 22 April ©Andy Holdsworth

2. Concert listings | bsolive.com

Saturday 22 April 2023 (Mayflower Theatre, Southampton)

The Magic of Menken

Pete Harrison *conductor*

BSO Voices

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

A celebration of Menken's greatest hits: including songs from Aladdin, The Little Mermaid and more

Friday 7 July 2023 (MAST Mayflower Studios, Southampton)

BSO On Your Doorstep

BSO Chamber Ensemble

A musical celebration of the sea, 'From the Hebrides to Padstow' featuring everything from sea shanties to Adele.

Saturday 6 January 2024 (Mayflower Theatre, Southampton)

New Year's Viennese special

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Saturday 9 March 2024 (Mayflower Theatre, Southampton)

The Best of John Williams and Hans Zimmer

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

3. About Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

www.bsolive.com | [@BSOrchestra](https://www.instagram.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 | Composer-in-Residence – Anna Korsun

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. Based at Lighthouse, Poole, the Orchestra has residencies in Bournemouth, Bristol, Exeter, Portsmouth and Yeovil – it is the largest cultural provider in the South West, serving one of the biggest and most diverse regions in the UK.



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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.

The BSO's Principal Broadcast Partner is **BBC Radio 3**

The BSO is **Classic FM's** Orchestra in the South of England.

4. About Mayflower Theatre and MAST, Mayflower Studios

mayflower.org.uk | mayflowerstudios.org.uk/

Mayflower Theatre is the biggest theatre on the South Coast with just over 2,270 seats in the auditorium. Their aim is to bring a diverse range of shows to Southampton, and present a mixture of spectacular touring productions, from musicals - many direct from the West End – to dance, opera, drama, ballet and comedy.

Mayflower Theatre runs as an independent theatre and operate as a charitable trust with no direct funding from any external bodies, so all the money generated from tickets sales is invested back into the theatre, to support the local community and education strategies and ensure the upkeep of the Grade II listed building.

MAST is a Creative Hub working with artists, communities and companies in a variety of ways. It supports artists living, making work, or with a connection to Southampton and Hampshire. It works with the best touring companies and local artists to present a vibrant, high-quality artistic programme, alongside MAST productions and co-productions.