

BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA HERALDS OPENING OF BRISTOL BEACON WITH NEW MUSIC TO CELEBRATE THE CITY'S STORY



Violinist Liya Petrova, chief conductor Kirill Karabits and tenor Thando Mjandana join the BSO

- Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) returns to **Bristol Beacon** as the venue's **Orchestra in Residence** at the start of its 2023/24 orchestral season.
- The **world premiere** of **Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Beacons***, specially commissioned for the occasion, marks the first classical concert at the newly transformed venue.
- Chief Conductor **Kirill Karabits** leads opening and closing performances in his final season at the helm. Highlights include Beethoven with pianist **Sunwook Kim**, Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, Karayev's *Seven Beauties Suite*, and Korngold's Violin Concerto with **Liya Petrova**.
- Bristol-based choirs unite with soprano **Francesca Chiejina**, tenor **Thando Mjandana** and the BSO in the **world premiere** of **Jonathan Dove's *Odyssey*** under the baton of **David Ogden**. The new choral work charts one refugee's perilous journey to safety.
- Principal Guest Conductor **Mark Wigglesworth** conducts Verdi and Beethoven in a programme that also features Chopin's Piano Concerto No.2 with rising star **Ethan Loch**.
- Hundreds of school children will experience live orchestral music as **the BSO's *Explore the Orchestra schools' concerts*** come to Bristol under the baton of Assistant Conductor **Tom Fetherstonhaugh**. Plus, orchestral music for all ages with film music and ***Symphonic Pink Floyd***.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is a registered charity, No.208520

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra becomes Orchestra in Residence at the newly transformed Bristol Beacon when it gives the opening classical concert at the venue's anticipated opening season later this year. Highlights across the season include two world premieres commissioned to celebrate the city's story, and performances under the baton of the BSO's Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits who concludes his 15-year tenure at the helm.

Two new works, written especially to celebrate the new creative chapter in Bristol's story, receive their world premiere in 2023/24.

A newly commissioned work — entitled *Beacons* — by celebrated composer **Mark-Anthony Turnage** heralds the return of live classical music to the city-centre venue when Kirill Karabits conducts the opening performance [19 December]. Karabits is joined by pianist **Sunwook Kim**, who performs Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.5, the programme also includes Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and Shostakovich's Festive Overture.

A second world premiere — *Odyssey* by composer **Jonathan Dove**, whose popular operatic writing has a reputation for creating wonder and enriching lives — unites the City of Bristol Choir, Bristol Youth Choir and community singers under the baton of conductor **David Ogden** [28 January]. The new choral work charts one refugee's perilous journey to safety. Soprano **Francesca Chiejina** and tenor **Thando Mjandano** perform leading roles.

The season features further celebrated artists, including the BSO's Principal Guest Conductor **Mark Wigglesworth**. He is joined by pianist and former BBC Young Musician Finalist **Ethan Loch** [21 March] who performs Chopin's Piano Concerto No.2, in a programme that includes Verdi's *Force of Destiny* overture and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.

Music for all ages features across the year, and hundreds of school children will experience live orchestral music as **the BSO's Explore the Orchestra schools' concerts** come to Bristol under the baton of Assistant Conductor **Tom Fetherstonhaugh** [21 March].

A celebration of film music, ***The Best of Williams and Zimmer***, also takes place in spring [1 March] — as well as the BSO's popular ***Symphonic Pink Floyd*** [10 May].

Kirill Karabits closes the season [7 June] with a concert that celebrates '**Voices from the East**' — the BSO's ongoing series of music from Karabits' native Ukraine and surrounding regions. Kara Karayev's familiar *Seven Beauties Suite* features alongside Dvorak's Symphony No.9 'New World', and violinist **Liya Petrova** performs Korngold's Violin Concerto.

Louise Mitchell CBE, Chief Executive of Bristol Beacon, said: "*Revealing the first orchestral season for our newly transformed Beacon Hall is a very special moment for us at Bristol Beacon. We are looking forward to welcoming audiences to experience world-class music reverberate around the improved acoustics of our wonderful auditorium Beacon Hall, in 21st century levels of comfort. We are also honoured to host conductors and orchestras who have played such a huge part of our musical history to date. It's fitting that they are helping us start this new era with this special season, which is packed with some of the greatest and best-loved classical works, as well as brand new music from some of the world's most respected living composers.*"

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Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Chief Executive, Dougie Scarfe, said: *"We can't wait to return to Bristol to open this extraordinary hall, which has been designed to create the very best acoustic experience for live music and will undoubtedly set a new benchmark in concert-going. As we share the breadth of our work in this opening season — from performances under the batons of Kirill Karabits and Mark Wigglesworth, to powerful world premieres by Jonathan Dove and Mark-Anthony Turnage, alongside celebratory performances of film music, Symphonic Pink Floyd and live concerts for schools — we'll be excited to return to audiences both familiar and new.*

"We're proud of our long-standing history in Bristol and look forward to helping the brilliant and indefatigable team at Bristol Beacon in marking this new chapter of creativity in the city and the wider South West."

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra opens Bristol Beacon's orchestral season under the baton of Kirill Karabits on Tuesday 19 December 2023. See bsolive.com for more information.

-ENDS-

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. High-resolution images available [here](#).
 - a) Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits ©Mark Allan
 - b) Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ©Mark Allan

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c) BSO Chief Executive Dougie Scarfe ©Corin Messer

2. Concert listings — booking available from **Friday 16 June**:

Tuesday 19 December 2023

Kirill Karabits *conductor*
Mark-Anthony Turnage — Beacons (world premiere)
Shostakovich — Festive Overture
Beethoven — Piano Concerto No.5
Stravinsky — The Rite of Spring

Sunday 28 January 2024

David Ogden *conductor*
Francesca Chiejina *soprano*
Thando Mjandana *tenor*
City of Bristol Choir, Bristol Youth Choir and
community choirs
Jonathan Dove — Odyssey (world premiere)

Friday 1 March 2024

The Best of Williams and Zimmer
Pete Harrison *conductor*

Thursday 21 March 2024

Schools' Concert
Explore the Orchestra: Dance, Dance, Dance!
Tom Fetherstonhaugh *conductor*
James Redwood *presenter*

Thursday 21 March 2024

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*
Ethan Loch *piano*
Verdi — Force of Destiny Overture
Chopin — Piano Concerto No.2
Beethoven — Symphony No.5

Friday 10 May 2024

Symphonic Pink Floyd
Pete Harrison *conductor*

Friday 7 June 2024

Kirill Karabits *conductor*
Liya Petrova *violin*
Karayev — Seven Beauties Suite
Korngold — Violin Concerto
Dvořák — Symphony No.9 'From the New World'

3. **About Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** | bsolive.com | @BSOrchestra

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, Southampton and Yeovil — it is the largest cultural provider in the South West, 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; its digital performances remain popular around the globe, reaching around 900 regular online viewers for each performance. In 2023/24, the series features guest artists Vadim Gluzman, Alina Ibragimova, Sunwook Kim and Awadagin Pratt alongside a host of the UK's leading music broadcasters. The former winner of the Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians, pianist **Alexander Malofeev** also features, when he becomes the Orchestra's Artist-in-Residence following popular appearances in recent seasons.

Committed to new music, the BSO has presented premiere performances of works by Carmen Ho, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Magnus Lindberg, Anna Korsun, Elizabeth Ogonek and Shirley J. Thompson OBE in recent years.

Challenging barriers to high-quality music for all, the BSO leads hundreds of community-based events each year, from its award-winning work in health and care settings to partnerships with schools and music education hubs — and in the 2023/24 season the Orchestra will welcome its next community-based **BSO**

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Young Associate musicians. Following international attention for igniting change, **BSO Resound** — the world's first professional disabled-led ensemble at the core of a major orchestra, and winner of the 2019 Royal Philharmonic Society's Impact Award — continues to challenge perceptions.

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

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