

PRESS RELEASE

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BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S DOUGIE SCARFE AWARDED OBE FOR SERVICES TO THE ARTS



BSO Chief Executive Dougie Scarfe ©Corin Messer

- **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Chief Executive Dougie Scarfe** has been announced as a recipient in His Majesty King Charles III's inaugural Birthday Honours list: he will be **recognised with an OBE for Services to the Arts**.
- Scarfe's 30-year career has spanned both performance and leadership roles, in which he has spearheaded change at some of the UK's foremost arts organisations, including **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** and **Opera North**.
- Earlier this year, he received the ABO/Classical Music Orchestra Manager of the Year award for his ongoing efforts to **improve inclusion and accessibility in classical music**, and in particular his **commitment to disabled musicians** and **livestreamed technology**.
- A vociferous champion in music education, Scarfe is known for directing youth ensembles, including the **City of Leeds Youth Orchestra**, and for his role as a founder of **Yorkshire Young Musicians (YYM)**. He is also a Board Director of **The Arts Development Company** and a former Trustee of **Manchester Collective**.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Chief Executive, Dougie Scarfe, has been recognised with an OBE for Services to the Arts in His Majesty King Charles III's inaugural Birthday Honours list.

Having held senior roles as both administrator, educator and performer in a career spanning over three decades, Scarfe is currently Chief Executive at Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, where he's been credited with leading transformational change since 2012. He was formerly Chorus &

Orchestra Director and Concerts Director at Opera North, where he began his career as a professional horn player.

A passionate advocate for culture, **Scarfe's ongoing efforts to improve access and inclusion in classical music has been widely praised.** His work in improving outcomes for disabled musicians – from the creation of the world's first disabled-led ensemble at the core of a major symphony orchestra, **BSO Resound**, to the commissioning of new music for inclusive forces – has been regarded as a world-leading approach for the sector.

His continued commitment to the BSO's **livestreamed performances**, which provide a lifeline for isolated and rural communities in the Orchestra's territory in the south-west of England, has also received acclaim. It is estimated that **over 117,000 people** have accessed the BSO's livestreamed concerts across the world since the first series in 2020.

Scarfe has remained dedicated to music education throughout his career, from conducting youth groups to teaching at a range of levels. Alongside his role in founding **Yorkshire Young Musicians (YYM)**, a talent development organisation for exceptional young performers, his conducting commitments have included 18 years as Principal Conductor of the **City of Leeds Youth Orchestra**, through which he has inspired generations of young performers. He is also an Advisor for **PRSSV**, a global music and dance examination board.

Scarfe is a Board Director of **The Arts Development Company** and a former Trustee of **Manchester Collective**. In 2019, he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship at **Arts University Bournemouth (AUB)**, for Services to Music.

Chair of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Andrew Flockhart, said: *"On behalf of the BSO, I would like to congratulate Dougie on receiving this honour from His Majesty the King. Dougie's huge and unique contribution to the arts and classical music is a joy to behold. Creating opportunities over decades, as he has, for people from all walks of life to enjoy the gifts of music is something very special indeed. We are delighted this has been recognised."*

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Chief Executive, Dougie Scarfe, said: *"All I have ever wanted is for others to have the chance to experience the life-enhancing impact of music and culture. Never has it been more important to bring joy to people, and, at a time when our sector faces such huge challenges, this incredible honour gives such a boost for the battles ahead. Throughout my career I have been lucky to work with the most extraordinary people, and this honour is really also for them."*

-ENDS-

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. High-resolution images [available here](#)
 - a) Dougie Scarfe at Lighthouse, Poole ©Corin Messer
 - b) Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra with Kirill Karabits ©Mark Allan

2. Dougie Scarfe was born in 1966, he is 56.

He has been Chief Executive of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra since 2012.

Dougie was nominated as a 'Cultural Hero 2020' by The Times for his dynamic leadership of the BSO during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Earlier this year he received the ABO/Classical Music Orchestra Manager of the Year award for dedication to improving access and inclusion in the sector.

Dougie trained at the Royal Northern College of Music.

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 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.