

PRESS RELEASE

Friday 21 July 2023

## KIRILL KARABITS ACCEPTS AWARD FROM ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH FOR COMMITMENT TO MUSIC ON THE SOUTH COAST



*BSO Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits ©Mark Allan*

- **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Chief Conductor, Kirill Karabits**, has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship at **Arts University Bournemouth's (AUB) 2023 Graduation Ceremony**.
- Karabits' **dedication to arts and culture on the South Coast** during his 15-year tenure at the BSO was recognised by AUB staff, students and alumni. He joins an illustrious list of Fellows, which includes Edgar Wright, Adjoa Andoh and the late Dame Vivienne Westwood.
- Karabits has led a variety of projects celebrating **AUB's creative partnership with the Orchestra** during his tenure at the helm. He becomes the BSO's Conductor Laureate, Artistic Director, Voices from the East from autumn 2024.

**The BSO's Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits is celebrated at Arts University Bournemouth's (AUB) 2023 Graduation Ceremony in recognition of his significant contribution to cultural life on the South Coast.**

Kirill Karabits accepted the award — which was presented in recognition of his **outstanding contribution to music** and his sensational 15-year tenure as the BSO's Chief Conductor — at AUB's Graduation Ceremony in Bournemouth, on Friday 21 July.

Nominations for the awards, which recognise people who have made a significant contribution in the fields of arts, design, media and performance, are received from the University's staff, students and alumni.

During his tenure, Karabits has helped to lead several projects that have celebrated the BSO's creative partnership with AUB, including visual arts projects tied to performances of the music of Berlioz and Strauss. Recognition of Kirill's work with young creatives was anticipated to inspire the latest cohort of graduates entering the creative world.

He joins an impressive list of AUB Fellows from the worlds of visual and performance arts, including Edgar Wright, Adjoa Andoh, Lord Norman Foster, Darcey Bussell and the late Dame Vivienne Westwood. The BSO's Chief Executive, Dougie Scarfe OBE, was also recognised with an Honorary Fellowship, in 2019.

**Paul Gough, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Arts University Bournemouth**, said: *"Kirill's work with the next generation of bright musicians and creatives is deeply inspiring, as is his commitment to encouraging diversity. We hope recognition of Kirill's contribution to music, particularly here on the South Coast, will inspire our young graduates in the fields of arts, media and performance."*

**Kirill Karabits, Chief Conductor of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra**, said: *"I'm truly honoured to accept this award from Arts University Bournemouth. Throughout my time on the South Coast I've continually felt impressed by the quality of work that AUB's students and alumni produce, and am proud to have worked on collaborative projects between the BSO and AUB. This award means a lot and I'm thrilled to be a part of this year's celebrations."*

Kirill Karabits concludes his tenure as Chief Conductor at the close of the BSO's 2023/24 concert season. He becomes Conductor Laureate, Artistic Director, Voices from the East from autumn 2024.

**-ENDS-**

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

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

2. Kirill Karabits was born in the Ukraine in 1976, he is 46.

He has been **Chief Conductor of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** since 2009, following popular appearances the previous year.

Karabits becomes the Orchestra's **Conductor Laureate, Artistic Director, Voices from the East** in autumn 2024.

3. **[About Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra](#)** | [bsolive.com](http://bsolive.com) | @BSOrchestra

Chief Conductor – Kirill Karabits | Artist-in-Residence — Alexander Malofeev  
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. 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 concerts have cemented its reputation for presenting live symphonic music of the highest quality; its online performances remain popular around the globe, with around 900 online viewers joining concert hall audiences 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 BSO also reunites with Seeta Patel Dance in a Bharatanatyam interpretation of The Rite of Spring following critical acclaim this spring — and pianist Alexander Malofeev, a former winner of the Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians, 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 Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Carmen Ho, Magnus Lindberg, Anna Korsun, Elizabeth Ogonek and Shirley J. Thompson OBE in recent years. In 2023/24 it gives world premiere performances of new works by Jonathan Dove and Mark-Anthony Turnage when it returns to its residency at Bristol Beacon.

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. In the 2023/24 season, it will also welcome its second cohort of BSO Young Associate community music leaders. 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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