

PRESS RELEASE: 24 October 2023

**BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND KIRILL KARABITS BRING THEIR
VOICES FROM THE EAST SERIES TO THE SOUTHBANK CENTRE, CELEBRATING
SYMPHONIC MUSIC FROM AZERBAIJAN, TURKMENISTAN, GEORGIA,
ARMENIA AND UKRAINE WITH A DAY OF CONCERTS AND TALKS**



Kirill Karabits © Mark Allan

Kirill Karabits and **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** have been performing and recording symphonic works by Eastern European composers since 2009 through their *Voices from the East* series. In May 2024, Karabits will perform three concerts with the BSO in Poole – two of which will be livestreamed for audiences worldwide – before they travel to London to undertake a day of *Voices from the East* events at the **Southbank Centre** on 19 May.

Karabits has uncovered many unpublished works and given them their UK – and sometimes world – premieres with the BSO over the last 15 years, performing music from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Macedonia, Poland, Russia, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. Through performances around the South-West of England, livestreams from the Lighthouse in Poole, and a recording series with Chandos, the Orchestra and Karabits have performed more of this music than any other Western orchestra.

On Sunday 19 May, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Kirill Karabits will present a full day of *Voices from the East* at the Southbank Centre, with three concerts at the Royal Festival Hall interspersed with talks and free performances across public spaces in the venue. The first concert of the day focuses on music from Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, with works by **Franghiz Ali-Zadeh**, **Chary Nurymov** and **Kara Karayev**. The second takes the audience to a soundworld from Georgia and Armenia, with **Giya Kancheli's** *Styx* and **Avet Terterian's** Symphony No. 3. The final concert of the day celebrates music from Ukraine, with works by **Thomas de Hartmann** and **Boris Lyatoshynsky**

alongside BSO Composer-in-Residence **Anna Korsun's** *Terricone*, which received its world premiere by Karabits and the Orchestra in January 2023.

Karabits' tenure as Chief Conductor concludes at the end of this season, after 15 years at the helm. He will take on a new role of 'Conductor Laureate, Artistic Director, Voices from the East' from autumn 2024, continuing the legacy of the important work that he and the Orchestra have accomplished to date. Karabits' final three concerts in Poole with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra take place in May 2024 (1, 8, 15), two of which will be livestreamed for worldwide audiences. On 1 May he will conduct a *Voices from the East* concert with BSO Artist-in-Residence **Alexander Malofeev** and viola player **Valeriy Sokolov**, with a programme that includes Kancheli's *Styx* (also performed at the Southbank Centre) and Ivan Karabits' Concerto for Orchestra No. 3. 8 May will see a concert performance of Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* with soprano **Olga Kulchynska**, and Karabits will conduct his final concert in Poole as Chief Conductor on 15 May with works by Bartók, Prokofiev and Shostakovich.

Kirill Karabits, Chief Conductor, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, said: *"I'm looking forward to sharing Voices from the East with audiences at the Southbank Centre next year. Discovering, performing and recording this music over the past 15 years has been incredibly rewarding and the openness of the BSO musicians and audiences in Poole has been crucial for the success of the series. I'm so proud of the unique symphonic pieces that we have already presented and I'm excited to continue enriching the future legacy of the series in my new role as Conductor Laureate, Artistic Director, Voices from the East."*

Dougie Scarfe, Chief Executive, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, said: *"The Voices from the East series has been a highlight of the Orchestra's work both on stage and through our recordings, and we look forward to sharing it with the Southbank Centre audiences alongside contextual talks and free events. The music that Kirill has uncovered during his tenure as our Chief Conductor has paved the way for Western orchestras and audiences to perform and experience this fantastic music that would otherwise have been lost. Although Kirill's tenure as Chief Conductor comes to an end in summer 2024, we are delighted that he will be continuing to explore lesser-known and lost music from Eastern Europe with us for years to come."*

-ENDS-

For more information please contact Rebecca Johns at Premier PR
rebecca.johns@premiercomms.com | 07715 205 196

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. High-resolution images available [here](#)
2. Concert listings — Kirill Karabits' final three concerts as BSO Chief Conductor in Poole, plus Southbank Centre 'Voices from the East' day

Wed 1 May 2024 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Voices from the East

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Kirill Karabits *conductor*

Alexander Malofeev *piano*

Valeriy Sokolov *viola*

Bournemouth Symphony Chorus

Tchaikovsky – Piano Concerto No.1

Ivan Karabits – Concerto for Orchestra No.3

Kancheli – Styx

Balakirev – Islamey

Wed 8 May 2024 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Kirill Karabits *conductor*

Olga Kulchynska *soprano*

Tchaikovsky – Lolanta [concert performance]

Wed 15 May 2024 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Kirill Karabits *conductor*

Alexander Gavrylyuk *piano*

Bartók - The Miraculous Mandarin Suite

Prokofiev – Piano Concerto No.3

Shostakovich – Symphony No.5

Sunday 19 May 2024 (Southbank Centre, London)

12:00 Deep Dive: Welcome

13:00 Voices from the East – Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan

Kirill Karabits *conductor*

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Frangiz Ali-Zadeh: “Nagilar” (Fairy Tales)

Nurymov: Symphony No. 2

Karayev: Seven Beauties Suite

14:30 Deep Dive: Session 1

16:00 Voices from the East – Georgia and Armenia

Kirill Karabits *conductor*

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Bournemouth Symphony Chorus

Valeriy Sokolov *viola*

Kancheli: Styx

Terterian: Symphony No. 3

17:30 Deep Dive: Session 2

19:30 Voices from the East – Ukraine

Kirill Karabits *conductor*

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Thomas de Hartmann: Suite from 'La Fleurette Rouge'

Anna Korsun: Terricone

Lyatoshynsky: Symphony No. 4



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.