

PRESS RELEASE
Friday 1 December 2023

BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA EXTENDS COMMUNITY MUSIC TRAINING SCHEME WELCOMING THREE BSO YOUNG ASSOCIATES



Ed Lee, Áánú Sodipe and Tammy Sullivan join the BSO this year

- Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra has extended its community music training scheme, **BSO Young Associates**, to welcome a second cohort of aspiring leaders.
- Musicians **Ed Lee, Áánú Sodipe and Tamara Sullivan** join the Orchestra for a **7-month placement** to work in communities across the South West, gaining the skills to deliver life-empowering projects with people of all ages
- The BSO Young Associates placements are bursary-supported roles designed to increase diversity in the sector. They offer the next generation a career springboard through practical experience, training, and mentoring.
- The BSO Young Associates scheme is supported by **Allianz Musical Insurance**

Three aspiring community music leaders have been selected as Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's second cohort of BSO Young Associates; the musicians will work with people of all ages across the South West over the next year.

Musicians **Ed Lee, Áánú Sodipe and Tamara Sullivan** begin this winter as BSO Young Associates, a bursary-supported training role to support their aspirations of becoming the next generation of community music leaders.

The three musicians will work across the range of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's participatory work, which includes delivering music in partnership with education providers and across a wide breadth of health and care settings.

Ed Lee is a guitarist and saxophonist who brings songwriting experience to the role, he has worked in SEND schools and is known for creating accessible and inclusive music. He joins **Àánú Sodipe** — a singer, violinist, and pianist who composes afro-classical music and performs with the Chineke! Orchestra — and **Tamara Sullivan**, who trained as an oboist at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, is an Instrumental Ambassador for the Benedetti Foundation and a participant on the LSO Pathways scheme.

The BSO Young Associates scheme was launched in 2022 to increase diversity in the sector, by offering aspiring community music leaders a career springboard through practical experience, training and mentoring.

The three musicians follow in the footsteps of **Lila Bhattacharjee** and **Sehyogue Aulakh**, who graduated from the scheme earlier this year.

The scheme has expanded further this year, with the BSO offering a series of creative and music leader development workshops to all shortlisted applicants.

BSO Young Associate Ed Lee said: *"I specialised in the research and study of SEND music education and since graduating have worked in schools in the Bournemouth area. I'm a self-confessed 'metal head' but I also grew up attending BSO concerts: I'm looking forward to fusing these passions as I join the organisation as a BSO Young Associate. I look forward to developing my skills as a music leader, which I hope to transfer into my work in education."*

BSO Young Associate Àánú Sodipe said: *"I was attracted to the community approach of the Young Associates programme. I love interacting with people and using music as a vehicle for togetherness and community fun. I'm a professional violinist from Hackney, east London; from a young age I was constantly surrounded by music at home and at church. I can't wait to begin and hope to develop my leadership and communication skills during the programme."*

BSO Young Associate Tamara Sullivan said: *"I'd heard great things about the programme from a former BSO Young Associate, and this encouraged me to apply. I hope to develop my skills as a music leader, in particular arranging, conducting, and co-creating projects, whilst building my ability as a presenter. I grew up in Dorset before studying in Cardiff; I've been busy as a performer and teacher and am looking forward to this new challenge."*

Bea Hankey, Joint Head of BSO Participate, said: *"We're thrilled to extend the BSO Young Associates programme for another year, working with these brilliant musicians to share and develop their skills in our communities when the empowering impact of collective music-making has never been needed more. We're grateful to our Supporting Partner Allianz Musical Insurance for their ongoing belief in our community-based work, and look forward to building on the success of last year's programme as we begin to work across the South West with Ed, Àánú, and Tamara."*

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra leads hundreds of events each year, from award-winning work in health and care settings to partnerships with schools and music education hubs. It is

known globally for championing the role of culture in people's lives. It received the **Royal Philharmonic Society's Impact Award in 2019** for its work in improving opportunities for disabled musicians, and **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.

Allianz Musical Insurance is a Supporting Partner of the BSO Young Associates programme.

To learn more visit bsolive.com

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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1. High-resolution images [available here](#).
 - a) BSO Young Associates Ed Lee, Áánú Sodipe and Tamara Sullivan ©BSO
2. **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.



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

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

3. **About Allianz Musical Insurance – Supporting Partner of BSO Young Associates**
www.allianz.co.uk/music | @AllianzMusic

“As proud partners of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Allianz Musical Insurance are excited to congratulate and welcome Ed, Áánú and Tamara to the BSO Young Associates scheme for 2023/24.

“Allianz Musical Insurance invest heavily into comprehensive training and development opportunities for its employees, and we understand that for some people working in the music industry, accessing these kinds of resources can be challenging and sometimes entirely out of reach. With our shared values of improving and ensuring equality, diversity and inclusion, it was a pleasure to support this scheme from its inception and follow Lila and Sehyogue’s journey in the first year.

“We’re delighted to continue our support and look forward to following the development of Ed, Áánú and Tamara as they benefit from this wonderful opportunity to gain vital skills with the careful and considered guidance of the BSO.”

Brian Hillstead, Partnerships Manager - Allianz Musical Insurance

