

PRESS RELEASE

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A SPECIAL CELEBRATION FOR NEW YEAR IN POOLE, SOUTHAMPTON, TAUNTON, AND WEYMOUTH AS KIRILL KARABITS LEADS MUSICAL FESTIVITIES



Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits welcomes singer Ruslana Lotsman to the South West

- **Kirill Karabits continues his celebratory final season as Chief Conductor of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) with his first New Year's Viennese Gala alongside special guest singer Ruslana Lotsman.**
- The majestic waltzes and polkas of the Viennese dance halls will herald in the New Year alongside a set of **traditional Ukrainian folk songs** from Kirill and Ruslana's homeland.
- Performances take place at: Lighthouse, Poole [1 Jan]; Taunton Brewhouse [4 Jan]; Weymouth Pavilion [5 Jan]; and Mayflower Southampton [6 Jan].

Audiences in Poole, Southampton, Taunton, and Weymouth are set to experience a New Year's celebration like no other, as Kirill Karabits – the popular Chief Conductor of the BSO – kicks off his final year in post with a cultural exchange to herald in 2024.

The swirling majesty of the traditional Viennese New Year Gala returns to venues across the South West with a selection of celebratory polkas, waltzes and polonaises – and, this year, the BSO's Chief Conductor, Kirill Karabits, guides listeners eastward from the Viennese dance halls toward the colourful musical landscapes of Ukraine.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is a registered charity, No.208520

The Orchestra and Karabits unite with special guest, **Kyiv-based folk singer Ruslana Lotsman**, who is known for her uplifting performances and bright native costumes, in a selection of specially arranged festive songs that have been written by composer Bogdan Kryvorust.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's **Chief Conductor, Kirill Karabits**, said: *"I'm excited to mark the start of 2024, my final year as the BSO's Chief Conductor, in the company of our supportive audiences across the region and with my friends on stage – including, the brilliant singer Ruslana Lotsman, who joins us from Ukraine. We're looking forward to uniting in the joyful music of the Viennese dance halls alongside a set of uplifting folk songs that we've curated especially for the occasion."*

Following a sensational relationship lasting a decade and a half, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's final season with Karabits as Chief Conductor continues through until late spring, ahead of a day-long musical celebration at **London's Southbank Centre [19 May]**.

The 2023/24 season sees the BSO celebrate a broad range of repertoire with Karabits, from the symphonies of Brahms, Bruckner and Borodin to rarities as part of the **Voices from the East** series of music from Karabits' native Ukraine and beyond.

Karabits will take up a new role of **Conductor Laureate, Artistic Director, Voices from the East** from summer 2024.

The BSO's **New Year's performances take place at Lighthouse, Poole (1 Jan), Taunton Brewhouse (4 Jan), Weymouth Pavilion (5 Jan) and Mayflower, Southampton (6 Jan)**. For full concert listings see bsolive.com

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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1. High-resolution images [available here](#).
 - a) Kirill Karabits conducts Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ©Mark Allan
 - b) Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits ©Mark Allan
 - c) Ukrainian folk singer Ruslana Lotsman
2. Concert listings:
New Year Viennese Gala
Lighthouse, Poole (1 Jan); Taunton Brewhouse (4 Jan); Weymouth Pavilion (5 Jan); Mayflower, Southampton (6 Jan)
Kirill Karabits (conductor); Ruslana Lotsman (singer); Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

A New Year's gala celebration to include dances by J Strauss II and a selection of Ukrainian folk songs set by composer Bogdan Kryvorust.

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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 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.

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