

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 22 February 2024

BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND UNIVERSITY OF EXETER SIGN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES IN DEVON



The partnership will increase access to life-empowering music ©Corin Messer

- **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** and the **University of Exeter** have renewed their partnership with a four-year agreement to bring music into people's lives.
- The new agreement commits to providing much-needed support for creative opportunities in and around Devon, with particular focus on access, inclusion and health and wellbeing.
- The University of Exeter is the Orchestra's home in Devon. In addition to its series of professional symphonic performances, the Orchestra is known for giving free **Schools' Concerts** in the county and supporting the **Exeter Community Family Orchestra**.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) and the University of Exeter have signed a four-year partnership that commits to bring further opportunities for life-empowering music-making into people's lives, supporting creativity in and around Devon.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and the University of Exeter are longstanding partners, and the new four-year agreement is set to deepen relationships with communities in and around Devon.

Over the coming years, the BSO will extend its award-winning work deeper into communities across the region; and it's set to provide the next generation of medical professionals with greater access and insight into the empowering impact music can play in health and wellbeing settings.

Since last autumn, the BSO has reached 2,500 primary-aged pupils with its popular Schools' Concerts at the University's Great Hall. The performances present opportunities for children in Exeter and the rural centres beyond and are supported by teaching resources and additional training opportunities for teaching staff. Designed for primary-aged children, the concerts have provided pupils with both their first taste of live music and an experience of a higher education campus.

Musicians from the BSO continue to reach out to young people this spring: they'll perform **GCSE Set Works concerts** [28 February, Plymouth]; and continue to support the intergenerational **Exeter Community Family Orchestra**, which rehearses weekly to bring all ages together through live music. The Orchestra also returns in full to Exeter, with music ranging from Brahms and Vaughan Williams [23 February] and a celebration of film music by John Williams and Hans Zimmer [29 February].

The **University of Exeter's Camborne School of Mines** is a partner of the BSO's **Cornwall Residency** this March, when a powerful and interactive new chamber opera — *Fault Lines* — takes place across Cornwall's Mining and Heritage sites, produced in association with Tête à Tête, Carn to Cove and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Chief Executive, Dougie Scarfe OBE DL, said:

"We are proud to commit to an extension of our partnership with the University of Exeter, which will see a deepening of our work with communities in and around Devon. The University recognises the value of welcoming internationally-regarded musicians to the region – and we're proud to have brought our guest artists to Devon this year. To have a world-class orchestra and a world-class university strategically aligned in this way is key in pushing forward the importance of creative opportunities across both access and inclusion and health and wellbeing agendas – it is a partnership that means a lot."

Mike Shore-Nye, Senior Vice-President and Registrar & Secretary at the University of Exeter, said: *"Our work together continues to go from strength to strength, and we are delighted to have signed the four-year partnership agreement. One of the reasons for this immensely successful partnership are the values and commitments we share as organisations, as well as both being extremely passionate about reaching out and collaboratively broadening our engagement across our regional communities."*

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.

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

For more information please contact:

Claire Rawles | crawles@bsorchestra.co.uk | 07860 776646 or Rebecca Johns | rebecca.johns@premiercomms.com | 07715 205 196

1. High-resolution images available [here](#).
 - a) Musicians of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
 - b) BSO's Chief Executive, Dougie Scarfe OBE DL ©Corin Messer
2. **Public performance listings** – for full details see bsolive.com

Friday 23 February , 7.30pm

University of Exeter, Great Hall

'London Town'

Karl-Heinz Steffens (cond.); Boris Giltburg (piano)

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Music of Brahms and Vaughan Williams

Wednesday 28 February, Plymouth

Thursday 29 February, Cullompton

GCSE Music concert

BSO players perform set works from the GCSE syllabus.

Thursday 29 February, 7.30pm

University of Exeter, Great Hall

'The Best of Williams and Zimmer'

Pete Harrison (cond.)

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Film music hits from the two titans

Saturday 16 March, 7.30pm

Exeter Cathedral

Verdi's Requiem

Howard Loasdu (cond.); Exeter Philharmonic Choir

Judith Howarth (soprano); Marta Fontanals-Simmons (mezzo-soprano);

Oliver Johnston (tenor); Tristan Hambleton (bass)

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Friday 19 March, 7.30pm

University of Exeter, Great Hall

Classic FM Live

Tom Fetherstonhaugh (cond.)

Anne-Marie Minhall (presenter)

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra



3. ABOUT BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA | bsolive.com

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.

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 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.

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

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

