



bournemouth
symphony orchestra

Concert Season 2024/25
Great Hall, Exeter



Welcome to the 2024/25 Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Season at The Great Hall, Exeter

Our mission is to bring music into your lives, and we have a series of incredible music on offer, performed by a host of internationally acclaimed artists.

Highlights include our new Principal Guest Conductor, Chloé van Soeterstède, conducting Brahms' First Symphony and Elgar's haunting Cello Concerto with Laura van der Heijden. I am certainly looking forward to experiencing the amazing playing of accordion player, Ksenija Sidorova, and delighted that violinist, Alena Baeva will be our Artist-in-Residence this season. We also welcome a wealth of talent including Kevin John Edusei, Nelson Goerner, Elisabeth Brauss, Alexandre Bloch and Lise Berthaud, and also Calleva Assistant Conductor, Enyi Okpara – all making their BSO debuts.

We will again broadcast 17 of our Poole concerts as BSO Digital Concerts so you can also watch concerts live from Poole, and programmes we are unable to bring to Exeter. Over 80,000 tickets have been purchased since our first live stream in September 2020, and on Wednesday 4 December we will reach our 100th Digital Concert which features Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* with new Chief Conductor, Mark Wigglesworth.

We really hope that you will join us for as many concerts as possible. You, the audience are as much a part of the performance as the musicians on stage – we can't do it without you. And as you know, nothing beats being there, so please tell your friends to come along and experience the full sensual glory of a live symphonic concert.

I look forward to welcoming you personally to a season of musical masterpieces with your great Orchestra – see you soon!

Dougie Scarfe OBE
Chief Executive

Thursday
26 September
7.30pm

Elgar's Enigma

A work dazzling in its ingenuity, technical skill and range of expression *Enigma Variations* was an immediate popular success and transformed Elgar into a national and international figure. Musically, the original theme is remarkable in that it has the same rhythm whether it is played backwards or forwards and the two halves of the phrase suggest two different keys, one major and one minor which builds much drama into the melody. Rachmaninov's most enduring masterpiece is his Second Piano Concerto. Rising out of mysterious depths of bell-like tolls, he quickly lets loose the first of many striking themes that litter the work. Its incessant energy and yearning passion never fail to stir the emotions. Overcoming his writer's block, Rachmaninov found a new voice as a composer – one with a perfect knack for unforgettable tunes, dazzling pianistic effects, an effortless flow of ideas, and a very suave sense of style. Wagner's overture deftly interweaves depictions of ocean storms with themes including a jolly Norwegian sailors' chorus and that of the Flying Dutchman himself.

With thanks to all our
BSO Members and Supporters

Wagner
The Flying Dutchman
Overture
Rachmaninov
Piano Concerto No.2
Elgar
Enigma Variations

Tom Fetherstonhaugh
Conductor
Clare Hammond
Piano

Thursday
31 October
7.30pm

Beethoven's Emperor

Beethoven
Piano Concerto No.5
'Emperor'
Prokofiev
Symphony No.5

Beethoven wrote his final Piano Concerto at the height of his compositional powers, at a time of personal and political turmoil. It is the largest in scale of all of his concertos. Essentially a three-movement symphony with solo piano, it is impressively imperial in scale; an epic tour de force, pitching soloist and orchestra in a musical argument of unprecedented breadth and scale. A spirit of heroism infuses the music, whilst the sublime slow movement is one of Beethoven's most profound. Most striking about the Fifth Symphony is its epic scale and character. Prokofiev uses the massive patriotic style that had proven so successful in his vocal and dramatic music of the late 1930s and early 1940s. Composed in 1944 the themes, orchestration, and mood are broad and strong; it is a symphony conceived on the greatness of the human soul, during a time of intense upheaval.

Kevin John Edusei
Conductor
Nelson Goerner
Piano

With thanks to all those who have
remembered the BSO in their Will



Thursday
28 November
7.30pm

Schumann
Overture,
Scherzo & Finale
Mendelssohn
Violin Concerto
Brahms
Symphony No.1

Mad Over Mendelssohn

Chloé van Soeterstède
Conductor
Alena Baeva
Violin

There is perhaps no more beloved violin concerto than Mendelssohn's masterpiece. Journeying from darkness to light, it begins restless, mysterious and questioning, and ends in a blaze of colour, full of joy and exhilaration. The sheer quality of the music and lightness of touch, bursting with unbridled vitality that leaves audiences clamouring for more, makes it a favourite amongst performers and listeners alike. Brahms' First Symphony, although inspired by those of his hero Beethoven, broke new ground for symphonic form. It is a symbolic journey from darkness to light, the themes developed from a handful of motivic nuggets, all smelted together into a shining edifice, with nothing wasted. A turbulent mood is established at the outset, by turns dark and meltingly warm, often infused with a rueful quality expressing a strain of sadness in his personality never lightened by artistic success. Schumann's majestic and vivacious *Overture, Scherzo & Finale* is a joyous work. It opens in dramatic fashion, dark and challenging, until a lively major melody appears, lightening the mood.



Supported by
Janet Boyle

Thursday
19 December
7.30pm

Last Night of the Christmas Proms

Christmas just isn't Christmas without the BSO's Last Night of the Christmas Proms concert! This year we are thrilled to welcome the talents of pianist and singer extraordinaire, Joe Stilgoe, who will be showcasing his musical talents with a hamper full of Christmas musical goodies alongside all your favourite orchestral treats.

Enyi Okpara
Conductor
Joe Stilgoe
Piano/Singer



Thursday
30 January
7.30pm

Shostakovich
Chamber Symphony
Mozart
Piano Concerto No.9 K271
Stravinsky
Petrushka (1947)

Tianyi Lu
Conductor
Elisabeth Brauss
Piano

Petrushka

Stravinsky's great ballet has gone through a fascinating series of metamorphoses since first conceived as a concert piece, inspired by the immensely popular puppet plays of 19th century Russia. The score is one of his most brilliant achievements, bursting with the energy and inventiveness of youth. From the opening bar it positively dazzles with its colour and energy, often so gestural that even in a concert performance, the images of the dancers are vividly conjured up. The Chamber Symphony Op.110a is in fact a transcription for string orchestra by erstwhile BSO Principal Conductor, Rudolf Barshai, of the String Quartet No.8. Whilst visiting a still decimated Dresden in 1960, Shostakovich wrote it in just three days dedicating it to "victims of fascism and war". It is a gripping portrayal of the brutality of conflict – jagged, dynamic rhythms in the central sections are contrasted by elegiac outer movements that never fail to move the senses. Mozart's first fully mature piano concerto with its technical demands and depth of expression, is alone among his early concertos.



"It's music that really puts an orchestra through its paces, but the BSO relished all its challenges, utterly secure in every department."
The Guardian, October 2023



“People who don’t go to many concerts sometimes gripe that all modern orchestras sound the same. They should get down to Dorset, and educate themselves.”

The Spectator, May 2023



Cello Elegy

Thursday
13 February
7.30pm

Beethoven

Symphony No.1

Elgar

Cello Concerto

R Strauss

Death and Transfiguration

Written in the summer of 1919, the Cello Concerto represented, for Elgar, the angst, despair and disillusionment he felt after the Great War, and an introspective look at death and mortality. It signified Elgar’s farewell to the way of life as he had known it. The music is private and poignant but it still remains a richly lyrical and noble work with the solo cello in full focus with its bold statements and heart-rending themes. Taking the late Romantic ideal of transfiguration, summing up a lifetime of musical experience, and pushing the orchestral genre to its extreme, *Tod und Verklärung* portrays a dying man who recalls the great loves of his past. It is an emotional cauldron of sheer magnificence. It seems fitting that Beethoven composed his First Symphony at the dawn of a new century. Despite its homages to the older generation, it is very much a forward-looking work with glimmers of the innovations to come from the great composer.

Alexander Soddy

Conductor

Laura van der Heijden

Cello

Thursday
13 March
7.30pm

Heroes and Superheroes

Pete Harrison
Conductor

RECOMMENDED BY
CLASSIC *fm*

Heroes both historical and fictitious as well as the superheroes of the Marvel and DC comics remain a fertile mine of inspiration for Hollywood and some of the best big screen adventures ever. Scores include the classics of *Robin Hood* and *The Magnificent Seven* by Eric Korngold and Elmer Bernstein, as well as those by John Williams and James Horner from films depicting real-life heroics of wartime sacrifice and space exploration in *Saving Private Ryan* and *Apollo 13*. Superheroes are represented by *Superman*, *Batman* and the *X-Men*.



Thursday
27 March
7.30pm

Fairy Tales and Folklore

Mozart

The Magic Flute Overture

de Hartmann

Fairy Tales

Trojan

Fairy Tales,
a Concerto for Accordion

Tchaikovsky

Francesca da Rimini

Kirill Karabits
Conductor

Ksenija Sidorova
Accordion

After a sombre opening, the overture to Mozart's most enduring opera skips off in a gleeful, fugal allegro and is notable for the brilliant use of counterpoint and dynamic contrasts. More of a suite than a concerto, Václav Trojan's *Fairy Tales* is full of appealing and catchy melodies.

The seven short movements each describe a fairy-tale character, such as the sleeping princess, the charming prince and the evil dragon. Thomas de Hartmann's charming vignettes also delve into the rich heritage of folklore. Having read Dante's epic poem *The Divine Comedy*, an episode from the Inferno section fired Tchaikovsky's imagination: the tale of Francesca, a young woman from Rimini who has been condemned to eternal damnation because of an illicit love affair. After an unsettling introduction, he vividly depicts the driving winds of Hell before the music dies away to a whisper and a pathetic theme on solo clarinet launches Francesca's tale before building in a long crescendo of passion.

Supported by
Michael & Judy Buckland



"The BSO were ardent collaborators in a performance of striking, served by a dedicated chorus gripped with conviction"
Bachtrack, December 2019



Thursday
10 April
7.30pm

Debussy

Prélude à l'après-midi
d'un faune

Berlioz

Harold In Italy

Mussorgsky (orch. Ravel)

Pictures at an Exhibition

Alexandre Bloch

Conductor

Lise Berthaud

Viola

Orchestral Pictures

Debussy's seductive painting of a languid, sun-drenched Sicilian afternoon marked a turning point in musical history, with its tenuous grasp of tonality and harmony. It weaves a tantalising veil of hypnotic colours and textures. Mussorgsky's musical wander through a fictitious gallery of works is a beautifully curated series of miniatures, some intimate, others grotesque, that imaginatively capture the essence of a character, mood or scene, further imbued with orchestral colour by Ravel's genius for scoring. Picturing outdoor scenes drawn from the most vivid experiences of Berlioz' Italian stay, *Harold in Italy* is full of youthful vitality, tinged with that appealing romantic sensibility that Berlioz borrowed so poetically from literature. Although using a solo viola it remains a symphony as the traditional balance between soloist and orchestra is shifted; the soloist is rarely the protagonist, more often a bystander.

In memory of
Gillian Emerson



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We would like to thank our Patrons and Performance Champions, those who have chosen to remember the BSO in their Will, and everyone who supports us through donations, membership or by volunteering their time.



Be part of the BSO's future with a gift in your Will

Now, more than ever, we depend on the generosity of our supporters to help preserve the Orchestra for future generations. Every donation makes a difference, and gifts in Wills are a particularly special way of making a lasting impact.

By remembering the BSO in your Will, you become part of our future. Your commitment today will protect the Orchestra for others to enjoy tomorrow and help to ensure our music continues to thrive for years to come.

“I want my grandchildren to sit in the concert hall and fall in love with the BSO, like I have.”
Teresa, BSO supporter

For more information visit
bsolive.com/gifts-in-wills,
call Faith Bayley on
01202 644711 or email
fbayley@bsorchestra.co.uk

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Concert Season 2024/25 at Lighthouse, Poole

Why not make a visit to Poole and enjoy a concert that isn't coming to Exeter? Your series discount is also applicable to any concerts in our Poole season. Or join us online for a digital concert. Stay at the Holiday Inn (just across the road from Lighthouse) and get a 15% discount as a BSO customer.

Wednesday 2 October ∞

The Planets

Vaughan Williams

In the Fen Country

Beethoven

Piano Concerto No.3

Holst

The Planets

Karl-Heinz Steffens, Paul Lewis

Wednesday 9 October

Firebird

Beethoven

Symphony No.6 'Pastoral'

Shostakovich

Piano Concerto No.1

Stravinsky

The Firebird (1919)

Elena Schwarz, Martin James

Bartlett, Paul Bosworth

Wednesday 16 October ∞

Tchaikovsky Six

Liadov

The Enchanted Lake

Dvořák

Cello Concerto

Tchaikovsky

Symphony No.6 'Pathétique'

Jac van Steen, Edgar Moreau

Wednesday 23 October

Holst 150

Holst

Cotswolds Symphony

Mars

Invocation

Vaughan Williams

Dona Nobis Pacem

David Hill, Anna Devin

Andrew Foster-Williams

Jesper Svedberg, BS Chorus

Wednesday 30 October ∞

Beethoven's Emperor

Beethoven

Piano Concerto No.5 'Emperor'

Prokofiev

Symphony No.5

Kevin John Eusei, Nelson Goerner

Saturday 8 November

Symphonic BeeGees

Richard Balcombe, Graham Bickley,

Patrick Smyth, Stuart Matthew

Price, Abbie Osmon

Wednesday 13 November ∞

Clarinet Bliss

Rossini

String Sonata No.6

Mozart

Clarinet Concerto

Mascagni

Intermezzo from

Cavalleria Rusticana

Mendelssohn

Symphony No.4 'Italian'

Enyi Okpara, Julian Bliss

Wednesday 20 November ∞

Wigglesworth Conducts Walton

Wagner

The Mastersingers of

Nuremberg Overture

Ravel

Piano Concerto for the Left Hand

Walton

Symphony No.1

Mark Wigglesworth

Nicholas McCarthy

Wednesday 27 November ∞

Mad Over Mendelssohn

Schumann

Overture, Scherzo & Finale

Mendelssohn

Violin Concerto

Brahms

Symphony No.1

Chloé van Soeterstède

Alena Baeva

Wednesday 4 December ∞

Nutcracker Magic

Rachmaninov

Piano Concerto No.3

Tchaikovsky

The Nutcracker (Act II)

Mark Wigglesworth, Boris Gilburt

Wednesday 11 December

Messiah

Handel

Messiah

Nicholas McGegan, BS Chorus

Saturday 14 December

The Snowman

Teresa Barlow, BSO Voices

Saturday 21 December

Christmas Proms

Enyi Okpara, Joe Stilgoe

Monday 23 December

Celebration of Christmas Carols

Gavin Carr, BS Chorus

Wednesday 1 January

New Year's Day Viennese Gala

Tom Fetherstonhaugh

Soraya Mafi

Wednesday 15 January ∞

Tales of Passion

Vaughan Williams

Fantasia on a

Theme of Thomas Tallis

Tchaikovsky

Violin Concerto

Rimsky-Korsakov

Scheherazade

Valentina Peleggi

Simone Lamsma

Wednesday 22 January ∞

Viennese Whirls

J Strauss

The Blue Danube

Berg

Violin Concerto

Brahms

Symphony No.2

Mark Wigglesworth, Alena Baeva

∞ = BSO Digital Concert

Wednesday 29 January

Petrushka

Shostakovich

Chamber Symphony Op.110a

Mozart

Piano Concerto No.9

Stravinsky

Petrushka (1947)

Tianyi Lu, Elisabeth Brauss

Saturday 8 February

African Rhapsodies

Fiona Monbet, Seckou Keita

Wednesday 12 February ∞

Cello Elegy

Beethoven

Symphony No.1

Elgar

Cello Concerto

R Strauss

Death and Transfiguration

Alexander Soddy

Laura van der Heijden

Saturday 15 February

Valentine Classics

Enyi Okpara, Milly Forrest

Wednesday 19 February

Northern Lights

Vasks

Musica Serena

Grieg

Piano Concerto

Sibelius

Symphony No.1

Gergely Madaras, Louis Schwizgebel

Wednesday 26 February ∞

Notes of Nostalgia

Brahms

Symphony No.3

Hough

Piano Concerto

(The World of Yesterday)

Elgar

Enigma Variations

Mark Wigglesworth, Stephen Hough

Wednesday 5 March

Symphonic Dances

Sibelius

Valse Triste

Shostakovich

Violin Concerto No.1

Rachmaninov

Symphonic Dances

Adam Hickox, Rosanne Philippens

Wednesday 12 March ∞

Looking Forward and Back

Brahms

Tragic Overture

Beethoven

Piano Concerto No.4

Schumann

Symphony No.2

Chloé van Soeterstède

Pavel Kolesnikov

Saturday 15 March

Heroes & Superheroes

Pete Harrison

Wednesday 26 March ∞

Fairy Tales & Folklore

Mozart

The Magic Flute Overture

de Hartmann

Fairy Tales

Trojan

Fairy Tales

(Accordion Concerto)

Tchaikovsky

Francesca da Rimini

Kirill Karabits

Ksenija Sidorova

Wednesday 2 April

Romantic Rhapsody

R Strauss

Don Juan

Rachmaninov

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini

Beethoven

Symphony No.3 'Eroica'

Kerem Hasan, Alexei Volodin

Wednesday 9 April ∞

Orchestral Pictures

Debussy

Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune

Berlioz

Harold In Italy

Mussorgsky

Pictures at an Exhibition

Alexandre Bloch, Lise Berthaud

Wednesday 30 April ∞

Alena Baeva Recital

Schumann

Märchenbilder Op.113

Schubert

Violin Fantasy Op.159

R Strauss

Violin Sonata Op.18

Stravinsky

The Fairy's Kiss (extracts)

Alena Baeva, Vadym Kholodenko

Wednesday 7 May ∞

The Essence of Brahms

Wagner

Lohengrin Prelude

Britten

Violin Concerto

Brahms

Symphony No.4

Mark Wigglesworth

Clara-Jumi Kang

Wednesday 14 May

Belshazzar's Feast

Bernstein

West Side Story:

Symphonic Dances

Gershwin

Rhapsody in Blue

Walton

Belshazzar's Feast

David Hill, Steven Osborne

Andrew Hamilton, BS Chorus

Saturday 17 May

The Best of Bond

David Arnold, Jacinta Whyte

bsolive.com
01202 669925
Monday – Friday
9.30am – 5pm

Tickets

£41 £35 £31 £27 £23 £19 £16

A 5% commission is applicable on all ticket prices.
Tickets are available as e-tickets you can print at home or show on a mobile device. An additional charge of £2 is payable for tickets sent by post.

BSO Digital Concerts

This season we will be livestreaming 17 Wednesday main series concerts with the recordings then available to watch on demand for 30 days.

£10 per concert
£150 season ticket
(all 17 concerts)

Pre-concert talks

Video talks for all concerts will be available to watch in advance. These will be posted on the concert info page on the BSO website so that you can find out more about the music being performed.

Multibuy discounts

Book any 7 Exeter concerts as a package and get a 20% discount.

5+ concerts **10% off**
3–4 concerts **5% off**

Discounts apply for bookings for BSO concerts at other venues on sale through the BSO Box Office including all our concerts in Poole. The more concerts you book in a season, the more you save.

23+ concerts **30% off**
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15–19 concerts **15% off**
5–14 concerts **10% off**

Accumulative discounting is not retrospective; only new bookings will get the higher discount as the threshold is reached.

Concessions

The BSO offers the following concessions to most concerts. Please note that only one concession applies per ticket and that concessions are not available retrospectively.

Proof of status is required at the time of collection. All concessions and discounts are subject to availability.

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Under 18s: £1 per ticket (some exclusions apply in which case a 50% discount is applicable)

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£5 per ticket
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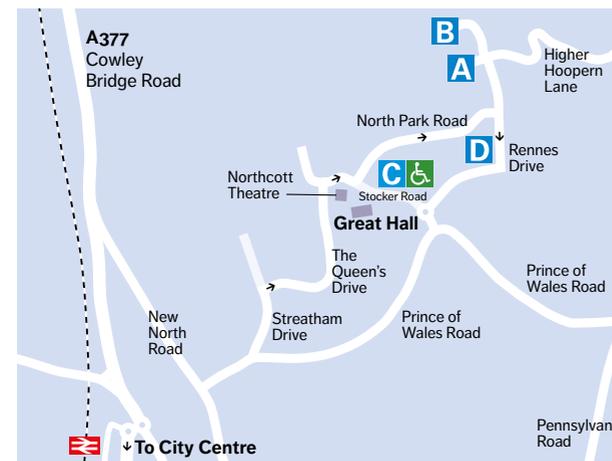
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Group booking discounts

10 or more tickets **10% off**
20 or more tickets **20% off**
30 or more tickets **30% off**

Group discounts are applicable for tickets purchased for the same concert. Tickets must be paid in full one month in advance of the concert date, otherwise they will be released for resale.



Great Hall
University of Exeter
Stoker Road
Exeter, EX4 4PY

Getting there

The Great Hall is situated on the main Streatham campus of Exeter University, adjacent to the Northcott Theatre which is signposted from Exeter City Centre. SATNAV use postcode EX4 4QJ

Bus routes with nearest stops adjacent to campus are the 5, 55, 315, 355, 369, 647, 649 and F. The Uni bus has stops on North Park Road and Prince of Wales Road.

Exeter St David's Rail Station is a 1km walk downhill from the hall. Taxis are available.

Parking

Car parking is available on campus – free from 6pm. We advise that you allow plenty of time to find a space as it is often very busy. The main car parks are Car Parks A, B and D as marked on the map. Blue badge holders can use Car Park C on a first come first served basis.

Group coaches

There are a number of groups that run coaches to concerts from across Devon. For information call the BSO on 01202 669925 or visit bsolive.com

Access

There is level access to the Great Hall stalls, the bar/restaurant and toilets (via a lift). Assistance dogs are welcome. A sound enhancement system which transmits enhanced audio to visitor's hearing aids, or specially provided headphones is available.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, 2 Seldown Lane, Poole, BH15 1UF
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All information is correct at the time of going to press – however artists are subject to availability and the BSO reserves the right to make any necessary changes from the advertised programmes.

This brochure is available in large print and electronic formats.
Call 01202 669925 or email hello@bsorchestra.co.uk

bsolive.com

“A life affirming performance,
demonstrating, once again,
that the BSO is often in
a class of its own.”
Bachtrack, February 2024

