

**PRESS RELEASE**

Tuesday 29 October 2024

## **MARK WIGGLESWORTH TO MAKE DEBUT AS BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S CHIEF CONDUCTOR**



*BSO Chief Conductor Mark Wigglesworth ©Sim Canetty-Clarke*

- **Mark Wigglesworth** is set to make anticipated **debut performances as the BSO's Chief Conductor** this November, at **Lighthouse, Poole** and **Bristol Beacon**.
- He is joined by **Nicholas McCarthy** in Ravel's *Piano Concerto for the Left Hand*. The programme also features Walton's First Symphony and Wagner's *Die Meistersinger Prelude*.
- Wigglesworth was announced as the Orchestra's incoming Chief Conductor earlier this year alongside **Chloé van Soeterstède**, who became Principal Guest Conductor. Together, they share a Brahms cycle this season.

**Music lovers in the South West are preparing to welcome Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's new Chief Conductor, Mark Wigglesworth, who makes debut appearances in the role this November.**

Wigglesworth's opening performances take place at the Orchestra's home, at **Lighthouse, Poole [20 Nov]**, and **Bristol Beacon [21 Nov]**, where it is Orchestra in Residence. The Poole performance will also be available to watch live and for 30 days as a Digital Concert.

The opening programme features Wagner's majestic Prelude to *Die Meistersinger* and Walton's First Symphony, a work that erupted onto the scene in 1935 and has remained popular ever since.

**Pianist Nicholas McCarthy** – who made history in 2012 when he became the first one-handed pianist to graduate from the Royal College of Music in its 130-year history – joins Wigglesworth and the Orchestra, to make his BSO debut with Ravel's *Piano Concerto for the Left Hand*.

**Mark Wigglesworth, the BSO's Chief Conductor**, said: *"It will be lovely to actually start making music on a regular basis with the musicians that I admire so much. We have planned wonderful concerts together and I am looking forward to turning these plans into reality. Hopefully the music will create many unforgettable experiences for all who come to listen."*

**Dougie Scarfe OBE, the BSO's Chief Executive**, said: *"We are looking forward to welcoming Mark into his new role as Chief Conductor in these opening performances this November. He's built a fantastic rapport with the BSO's musicians, audiences and staff over the last three years, since becoming Principal Guest Conductor, and we are thrilled to now embark on the next chapter together."*

Wigglesworth returns in early December – alongside **pianist Boris Giltburg** – with Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto and Tchaikovsky's orchestral suite from *The Nutcracker (Act 2)*. Performances take place at **Lighthouse, Poole [4 Dec]** and **Portsmouth Guildhall [5 Dec]**.

Further highlights this season include collaborations with violinists Alena Baeva (the BSO's 2024/25 Artist-in-Residence) and Clara-Jumi Kang. Wigglesworth returns with Sir Stephen Hough, who performs his own piano concerto, *The World of Yesterday*, in February.

**Mark Wigglesworth makes his debut as the BSO's Chief Conductor – at Lighthouse, Poole [20 Nov] and Bristol Beacon [21 Nov] – alongside pianist Nicholas McCarthy. For full details see [bsolive.com](https://www.bsolive.com)**

**-ENDS-**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

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### 1. Event listings

Wed 20 Nov 2024 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thurs 21 Nov 2024 (Bristol Beacon)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Nicholas McCarthy *piano*

Wagner – Die Meistersinger Prelude

Ravel – Piano Concerto for Left Hand

Walton – Symphony No.1

Wed 4 Dec 2024 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 5 Dec (Portsmouth, Guildhall)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Boris Giltburg *piano*

Rachmaninov – Piano Concerto No.3

Tchaikovsky – Nutcracker, Act II

Wed 22 Jan 2025 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 23 Jan (Portsmouth, Guildhall)

Sat 25 Jan (Basingstoke, The Anvil)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Alena Baeva *violin* (Artist-in-Residence)

J Strauss – On the Blue Danube

Berg – Violin Concerto

Brahms – Symphony No.2

Wed 26 Feb 2025 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thurs 27 Feb 2025 (Bristol Beacon)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Sir Stephen Hough *piano*

Brahms – Symphony No.3

Stephen Hough – Piano Concerto 'The World of Yesterday'

Elgar – Enigma Variations

Wed 7 May 2025 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 8 May (Portsmouth, Guildhall)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Clara-Jumi Kang *violin*

Wagner – Prelude to Lohengrin

Britten – Violin Concerto

Brahms – Symphony No.4

### 2. High-resolution images available [here](#)

a) BSO Chief Conductor Mark Wigglesworth ©Sim Canetty-Clarke

b) Mark Wigglesworth with the BSO at Lighthouse Poole ©Corin Messer

c) Chloé van Soeterstède and Mark Wigglesworth © Mark Allan

### 3. **ABOUT BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** | [bsolive.com](http://bsolive.com)

*Chief Conductor – Mark Wigglesworth | Artist-in-Residence — Alena Baeva*

*Principal Guest Conductor — Chloé van Soeterstède | Associate Guest Conductor – David Hill MBE*

*Conductor Laureate & Artistic Director, Voices from the East – Kirill Karabits*

*Conductor Laureate – Andrew Litton | Conductor Emeritus – Marin Alsop*

*Calleva Assistant Conductor – Enyi Okpara*

**One of the UK's best-loved orchestras, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is known for championing the role of culture in people's lives. Based at Lighthouse, Poole, the Orchestra is resident in Bristol, Exeter, Portsmouth, Southampton, and Yeovil, and performs in towns and villages across the region. It is the largest cultural provider in the Southwest of England, serving one of the biggest and most diverse regions in the UK.**



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Celebrated globally for his outstanding musicianship, extraordinary interpretations, and breadth of repertoire, **Mark Wigglesworth's appointment as Chief Conductor** (from autumn 2024) builds on the BSO's reputation for the highest quality music-making. The Orchestra boasts an enviable list of named conductors, including Principal Guest Conductor Chloé van Soeterstède, Marin Alsop, David Hill MBE, Kirill Karabits, and Andrew Litton.

Highlights of the season include concerto and chamber performances from Artist-in-Residence, the violinist **Alena Baeva**, and collaborations with Calleva Assistant Conductor, **Enyi Okpara**, who performs a broad mix of repertoire across the year. Guest artists include conductors Adam Hickox and Kevin John Edusei; pianist Nicholas McCarthy; and accordionist Ksenija Sidorova — and the Orchestra's celebrated Digital Concert series continues into its fifth year, with 17 live performances broadcast globally from Poole.

Committed to new music, the BSO has presented premiere performances of works by Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Jonathan Dove, Magnus Lindberg, Anna Korsun, Elizabeth Ogonek, Shirley J. Thompson OBE, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Kate Whitley in recent years — and its Voices from the East series has been recognised for unearthing lost symphonic works from eastern Europe and central Asia.

The BSO is known for championing access to high-quality music for all and 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. In the 2024/25 season, it deepens its reach into local communities, including: a new residency in partnership with NHS Dorset; an expansion of its creative health work; and the extension of the BSO Young Associates community music training scheme. 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.

