

## Explore the Orchestra: BSO's KS2 Schools' Concerts What to expect for new schools - Live or Livestream

**If you're a teacher who has never accessed this programme before, welcome! This should hopefully equip you with everything you need to know when participating in BSO's Explore the Orchestra programme and how to get the most out of the experience for your school and pupils.**

### **What is Explore the Orchestra?**

Explore the Orchestra is an interactive concert designed primarily for Key Stage 2 primary school children, with other ages and special educational needs school groups welcome if you are confident on the level feeling right for your pupils – we can support with this if you are unsure. The concert features the full Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (around 70 professional musicians), it lasts just under 1 hour 15 minutes and is presented and facilitated by composer and animateur James Redwood, who is occasionally joined by additional guest artists. Each year the theme of the concert changes from stories of the sea to exploring the four elements.

Among a carefully curated programme for this age range including music from a diverse range of genres and sound worlds, Explore the Orchestra concerts always feature at least two participatory songs. Most commonly, this is a song (with Makaton signing) and a body percussion piece with both pieces having been co-created with KS2 pupils. There are optional instrumental parts for teachers that want to go one step further or are looking to tie in the learning to instrumental teaching that is already happening in school.

To maximise participation, schools incorporate the learning for these two songs in class beforehand and will join in with the full symphony orchestra from their seats (or classrooms in the livestream) during the concert. There is a CPD (in person and online) led by James Redwood for all teachers available, along with digital resources to support teachers with embedding learning of Explore the Orchestra into the classroom during the lead up to the concert.

The concert, CPD and learning resources are all free to access. Costs that will be incurred for schools attending in person will be those who require coach travel, of which BSO has a small pot of coach bursaries to support with rising costs.

### **Why should your school take part, apart from it being an exciting experience?**

- It will support your teaching of the National curriculum for Music
- It will provide you with material to use in your lessons for at least half a term, which are accessible for non-music specialists to use in lessons, as well as having a CPD to support your teachers in building confidence

A student who came said: *"I enjoyed listening to the beautiful music because it was, like, beautifully calm."*

See below a testimonial from a headteacher of a Dorset school who spoke of the value of Explore the Orchestra to his school as primarily enrichment, but also supporting learning:

*"I think it's about the opportunities for cultural enrichment. So, we can do learning at school about music, you can do YouTube clips, you can do all sorts of things... But if you go to a theatre as they did yesterday, then they get a much broader learning opportunity. And I really mean that in all senses of the word, you know, how to sit in a seat in an auditorium, how to actually listen actively to the music that's happening, how to listen to the rhythm, beat, all of those sorts of things is significant for us."*

### **How can you maximise participating in Explore the Orchestra?**

- Many schools have incorporated past themes into their term focus, which allows them to explore the theme further in other subjects across school
- Some teachers incorporate the online video resources into their weekly timetable in the weeks leading up to the concert, and practise/perform in assembly
- Some teachers like to explore some of the pieces of music that will be in the concert in class together
- Use the 'How to prepare' document on the learning resources page to get the children ready for what to expect on the day
- For those accessing the livestream, there will be an online CPD with James. There is a separate guide with specific technical guidance. You can either watch live or on demand for up to 30 days.