

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **WORLD'S FIRST DISABLED-LED YOUTH ORCHESTRA RETURNS TO THE SOUTH COAST THIS SPRING**



*NOYO's relaxed performances return to venues across the UK this spring ©NOYO*

- The **National Open Youth Orchestra (NOYO)** returns to **Lighthouse, Poole** on **Saturday 10 May**, as part of its UK tour.
- The performance features sixteen brilliant **11–25-year-old disabled and non-disabled musicians**, from its five regional NOYO Ensembles. The Bournemouth NOYO Ensemble is run in partnership with **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO)**.
- The BSL-interpreted **Relaxed Concerts** include brand-new music written for the group, plus bold new arrangements of pieces by **Meredith Monk** and the jazz-funk inspired **Lucky Chops**.
- NOYO's UK spring tour visits **Milton Court, London** [27 April], **Lighthouse, Poole** [10 May], **Hoddinott Hall, Cardiff** [17 May] and **Birmingham Town Hall** [8 June].
- The Poole performance will also be available via **livestream** and available to watch for 30 days.

**Concert lovers will experience brand-new music this spring from the pioneering National Open Youth Orchestra (NOYO), which returns to Lighthouse, Poole with its innovative mix of acoustic and electronic instruments.**

People of all ages are invited to NOYO's Relaxed Concert which **welcomes a diverse audience, inclusive of disabled and neurodivergent concertgoers and families.**

NOYO became the world's first disabled-led youth ensemble, when it launched in 2018. Its players, talented young disabled and non-disabled musicians, rehearse together in five regional NOYO Ensembles – in Birmingham, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cardiff, and London. The **Bournemouth NOYO Ensemble is run in partnership with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra**: the BSO's professional musicians work alongside players in monthly rehearsals, instrumental lessons, and performance opportunities.

Some of NOYO's musicians perform acoustic instruments, while others play **accessible electronic instruments** – such as the Clarion – with specially commissioned music and arrangements to showcase their musicianship and creativity.

Two brand-new works feature at the centre of the group's UK tour: the premiere of **Yfat Soul Zisso's *Fragile*** (commissioned in partnership with nonclassical) and Ivors Academy Award-winning composer **Liam Taylor-West's piano concerto, *Ring Out!*** (commissioned by Dr. John Manley). The concert also features arrangements of familiar works by Meredith Monk, Lucky Chops, and Kate Whitley. It also includes *Barriers*, a poignant work written by former NOYO musician Oliver Cross in memory of lost friends and fellow disabled musicians.

NOYO's UK tour – entitled '***Ring Out! No more barriers just great music***' – visits: Milton Court, London [Sat 27 April]; Lighthouse, Poole [Sat 10 May]; Hoddinott Hall, Cardiff [Sat 17 May]; and Birmingham Town Hall [Sun 8 June].

**Composer Liam Taylor-West** said of piano concerto '*Ring Out!*': "*The composition features a solo pianist prominently, opening the piece with loud, bold piano chords left to sound in their entirety, like bells being rung out from hilltops, passing signals from one place to another. I pictured the rest of the ensemble emerging slowly from these piano chords, with the music expanding to tell a story, before fading away and leaving the audience with just the bells again. I can't wait to hear NOYO musicians sharing their interpretation of this story emerging between the bell chords*". On the concert series' theme, Taylor-West says, "*I love that the phrase 'Ring Out!' is being associated with a sense of pride and unshamedness about the orchestra's unconventional, innovative music.*"

**Composer Yfat Soul Zisso** said: "*Fragile was composed as a journey, with the beauty and serenity of nature being gradually attacked and altered, and our emotional response to this happening, the anger that makes us decide to fight back and defend our environment - What does it take for us to acknowledge rather than ignore the attack, to step up and use our voices to stop it? I wanted the piece*

*to have all these viewpoints and emotions, so it would hopefully represent both my feelings and the musicians', giving them a musical voice to express themselves on a topic they deeply care about."*  
*"Fragile was written in a more flexible way with NOYO in mind, with no fixed instrumentation given. It's a piece that could be played by any type of flexible ensemble in the future. It shows the importance of accessibility when composing new music."*

**NOYO Oboist, Lilian Hopper**, said: *"NOYO is such a fun ensemble to play in, and I think that enjoyment really comes through in our concerts. We do a wide variety of music, and each piece is arranged to suit the orchestra, creating interesting new takes on existing songs. There's something in there for just about everyone, but my personal favourite in the lineup is Behroozi. It's just so funky, and I rarely get to play jazzy pieces like it on the oboe."*

*"I love big performances. What I like less are the hours of rehearsing with barely any breaks in between that usually come before that. It takes all my energy and sometimes also my enjoyment of the performance part. But in NOYO, the timing and the way things are organised works a lot better for me, so I can focus more on just playing good music instead of masking how I feel. It's a place where I can work with my differences instead of trying to compensate for them all the time."*

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

*"We're proud to support the National Open Youth Orchestra with its regional Bournemouth Ensemble – and are thrilled to livestream NOYO's performance from Lighthouse, Poole again this year. What NOYO continues to achieve, in opening doors to the British music scene for a new generation of disabled people, is remarkable - we're delighted to work closely with these brilliant young musicians."*

**The National Open Youth Orchestra performs at Lighthouse, Poole on Saturday 10 May, at 3pm - the performance will also be livestreamed. For tickets and further details see [bsolve.com](https://bsolve.com)**

[ENDS]

## NOTES TO EDITORS

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1. High-resolution images available [here](#)
2. TOUR DETAILS <https://bsolve.com/events/ring-out/>

The tour visits four UK cities, with the ensemble appearing in Cardiff for the first time:

Sunday 27 April 2025, 3-4pm	Milton Court Concert Hall, London
Saturday 10 May 2025, 3-4pm	Lighthouse Poole (live and streaming)
Saturday 17 May 2025, 3-4pm	Hoddinott Hall, Cardiff (debut performance)
Sunday 8 June 2025, 3-4pm	Birmingham Town Hall

Programme:

Liam Taylor-West (arr. Ellen O'Brien) - Ring Out!  
Lucky Chops (arr. Ellen O'Brien) - Behroozi  
Meredith Monk (arr. Julia Koelmans) - Parlour Games  
Yfat Soul Zisso (Arr. Liam Taylor-West) - Fragile  
Kate Whitley (Arr. Liam Taylor-West) - Falling  
Oliver Cross (Arr. Rhian Davies) - Barriers

**3. About the National Open Youth Orchestra | [noyo.org.uk](http://noyo.org.uk)**

Since its launch in 2018 as the world's first disabled-led national youth ensemble, the National Open Youth Orchestra and its partners have successfully established a programme for young disabled musicians to develop their skills at an advanced level, offering accessible ensemble practice and performance opportunities in five regions.

The National Open Youth Orchestra is a dynamic orchestra that evolves each year, with sixteen musicians coming together this year to present a broad programme of contemporary classic music. All National Open Youth Orchestra musicians have come through the ranks of five regional NOYO Ensembles, which are delivered through major partnerships:

- London NOYO Ensemble, in partnership with Guildhall School of Music & Drama
- Bournemouth NOYO Ensemble, in partnership with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
- Bristol NOYO Ensemble, in partnership with Bristol Beacon
- Birmingham NOYO Ensemble, in partnership with Services For Education, B:Music and Midlands Arts Centre.
- Cardiff NOYO Ensemble, in partnership with Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and BBC National Orchestra of Wales
- With the Barbican as national partner.
- Behind the scenes, the National Open Youth Orchestra is run by Bristol-based charity Open Up Music.

In 2024-25, there are 58 musicians rehearsing in NOYO Ensembles.

Together, NOYO's mission is to show that combining high levels of inclusion and musical excellence isn't just possible, but the way forward.

The National Open Youth Orchestra is a programme of Open Up Music (Registered Charity No1167028). It is generously supported by founding sponsor ABRSM, supported using public funding by Department for Education, Arts Council England, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Youth Music, Arts Council Lottery funded, The Northwick Trust, The Lightbulb Trust, and D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust.

**4. Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's NOYO programme in 2024/25 is generously supported by**

- **The Pointer Family Trust**
- **The Valentine Charitable Trust**

With thanks to our Music Hub partners **SoundStorm Music Education Agency, Hampshire Music Hub** and **Dorset Music Hub** for their support of the programme

5. **ABOUT BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** | [bsolive.com](https://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. A leading arts charity, it is the largest cultural provider in the South West of England, serving one of the biggest and most diverse regions in the UK.**

Celebrated globally for his outstanding musicianship, extraordinary interpretations, and breadth of repertoire, **Mark Wigglesworth’s** appointment as Chief Conductor 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 through its BSO Participate programme: 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 **Dorset County Hospital and Arts in Hospital;** 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.

A **National Portfolio of Arts Council England,** the BSO is a registered charity and relies on generous philanthropic support from individual donors, gifts in wills, corporate partners, and charitable trusts and foundations. In 2024, the Orchestra was delighted to receive its largest ever funding pledge from a charitable trust: a grant award of £300,000 over three years (2025-27) from the **Garfield Weston Foundation** towards BSO Participate.