

PRESS RELEASE  
Thursday 29 May 2025

## SYMPHONIC MUSIC RETURNS TO MEYRICK PARK THIS SUMMER WITH CLASSICAL FAVOURITES AND '80s SMASH HITS



*Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra returns to Meyrick Park ©BSO*

- Music lovers are in for a treat this summer, as **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's** esteemed 'BSO Pops' series returns to Meyrick Park, in central Bournemouth.
- 'Classical Extravaganza 2.0' [8 Aug] and 'Symphonic Smash Hits' [9 Aug] provide opportunity to picnic while enjoying live open-air symphonic music. Both nights culminate in a stunning firework and pyrotechnic display.
- **Lester Aldridge Solicitors** sponsor Saturday night's celebration of '80s party hits, in which the BSO unites with **stars from the West End** and conductor Pete Harrison for music by Blondie, George Michael, Ultravox and more.
- Recently announced as one of Classic FM's Rising Stars, conductor Enyi Okpara opens the weekend with a concert of popular classics and film hits, including *Superman* and *ET*.
- **Early bird tickets are available until 9 June**, with adult tickets priced £33 (or £41 on the day)

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra returns to Meyrick Park with two outdoor concerts this August: *Classical Extravaganza 2.0* and *Symphonic Smash Hits: the '80s*.

The weekend, which is supported by **BCP Council**, opens with some of the best-known classical and film music, when the BSO's Calleva Assistant Conductor Enyi Okpara directs 'Classical Extravaganza 2.0' [8 Aug]. Fans of *Superman* and *ET* will recognise John Williams' ever-popular music, and favourites by Elgar, Tchaikovsky and Mascagni feature across the evening.

Dig out the shoulder-pads for 'Symphonic Smash Hits: the 80s!' [9 Aug], an event generously supported by **Lester Aldridge Solicitors**. This high-energy night pays tribute to music from the iconic decade and features a host of West End singers and Pete Harrison who conducts the decade's greatest hits, from Madonna and Bonnie Tyler to Elton John, Toto and more. Concertgoers are encouraged to embrace the night fully by joining the Orchestra in their favourite '80s inspired outfits.

Gates open at 6pm, ahead of the 8pm performance, and audiences are encouraged to bring picnics to enjoy on site. A stunning display of fireworks and pyrotechnics rounds things off in style, on both evenings.

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

*"Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's open-air concerts at Meyrick Park are always a huge highlight of our summer. We're looking forward to performing some of the most enduring hits from film and classical ...before celebrating iconic music from the '80s. So, dust off the shoulder pads, and we'll see you there!"*

**Tom Alder, Managing Partner at Lester Aldridge Solicitors, said:**

*"We're proud to support Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and help bring live music to the heart of Bournemouth this summer: it promises to be a truly unforgettable evening."*

For full details visit [bsolive.com](https://bsolive.com). Early bird tickets are available until 9 June.

-ENDS-

## NOTES TO EDITORS

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1. High-resolution images available [here](#)
  - a) Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at Meyrick Park ©BSO
  - b) Conductor Pete Harrison © Andy Holdsworth
  - c) Conductor Enyi Okpara © Frances Marshall
2. [ABOUT BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA](#) | [bsolive.com](https://bsolive.com)

Chief Conductor – Mark Wigglesworth | 2025/26 Artist-in-Residence – Roderick Williams OBE  
Principal Guest Conductor – Chloé Van Soeterstède | Associate Guest Conductor – David Hill MBE  
Conductor Laureate & Artistic Director, Voices from the East – Kirill Karabits OBE  
Conductor Emeritus – Marin Alsop | Conductor Laureate – Andrew Litton  
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.

The Daily Telegraph described Mark Wigglesworth's opening performance as Chief Conductor in 2024 as "a fine, fierce debut". Celebrated globally for his outstanding musicianship, extraordinary interpretations, and breadth of repertoire, Wigglesworth's first season has magnified 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.

In 2025/26, the BSO welcomes baritone **Roderick Williams OBE** as Artist-in-Residence: Williams performs five times across the season, including Zemlinsky's *Lyric Symphony*, Tippett's *A Child of Our Time*, and a 24-song cycle, *An English Winterreise*. The Orchestra also introduces **Dani Howard** as its Celebrated Composer, a series that shines a spotlight on new British music. It shares seven performances of Howard's music, including the UK premiere of her *Saxophone Concerto* with **Jess Gillam**. Further highlights of the season include debut performances from organist **Anna Lapwood**, cellist **Hugo Svedberg**, guitarist **Plinio Fernandes**, viola player **Timothy Ridout**, among more. The Orchestra's celebrated **Digital Concert series** continues into its sixth year, with 19 live performances broadcast globally from Poole.

The Orchestra is celebrated for its pioneering community-based **BSO Participate** work, spanning partnerships with health and care providers to inclusive events in schools and with music education hubs. In the 2025/26 season, highlights include the expansion of its creative health programme with **Dorset County Hospital** and **Arts in Hospital** into further **Dorset HealthCare** sites, and an extension of its support for **Community and Wellbeing Orchestras** supporting a range of needs across the region from Bodmin, Boscombe and Bristol to Chard and Wincanton.

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 group unites with Calleva Assistant Conductor Enyi Okpara and members of the **National Open Youth Orchestra** to share its live music in schools in 2025/26.

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.

The BSO's Principal Broadcast Partner is **BBC Radio 3**.  
The BSO is **Classic FM's** Orchestra in the South of England.

### 3. [ABOUT LESTER ALDRIDGE SOLICITORS | lesteraldridge.com](https://lesteraldridge.com)

Lester Aldridge is a full-service law firm with offices located in Bournemouth, Southampton and London. The firm provides comprehensive legal services to both businesses and private individuals, catering to clients on a regional, national, and international level. With its presence in the Central South region, Lester Aldridge is recognised as a leader in the legal sector, offering expertise across multiple areas of law to meet the diverse needs of clients.

