

EMBARGOED UNTIL 7 MAY 2025

Awe-inspiring live music for everyone

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra announces performances across the South West



Clockwise from top left: Chloé Van Soeterstède, Mark Wigglesworth, Enyi Okpara, Dani Howard, Jess Gillam, Roderick Williams

- Chief Conductor **Mark Wigglesworth** conducts **22 performances** across the season including Basingstoke, Bristol, Exeter, Fareham, Poole, Sherborne and Taunton.
- Works by the Orchestra's **Celebrated Composer, Dani Howard**, feature in 15 performances. **Jess Gillam** performs the **UK premiere** of Howard's *Saxophone Concerto* in Bristol and Poole.
- **Roderick Williams OBE** becomes the Orchestra's **Artist-in-Residence**, with four appearances across the season. The superstar baritone also joins the BSO's Participate work beyond the stage during his residency.
- Principal Guest Conductor **Chloé Van Soeterstède** conducts music by Lili Boulanger, Dvořák, Saint-Saens and Poulenc. Conductor Laureate **Kirill Karabits OBE** marks **Shostakovich's 50th anniversary**, and Associate Guest Conductor **David Hill MBE** returns with *Durufle's Requiem*.
- **Calleva Assistant Conductor Enyi Okpara's** second year includes a main season concert of Bax, Beethoven and Vaughan Williams, plus a series of symphonic Schools' Concerts, and a tour with **BSO Resound** across Bristol, Dorset and Hampshire.
- The BSO extends its support for 7 regular **Community and Wellbeing Orchestras** in **Bodmin, Boscombe, Bristol, Chard, Exeter, Southampton and Wincanton**, following successful pilots in recent seasons. Plus, its programme with **Arts in Hospital** at **Dorset County Hospital** extends to **Dorset HealthCare** sites across the county.
- The Orchestra broadcasts **19 livestreamed Digital Concerts** from **Lighthouse, Poole** – and its **'BSO On Your Doorstep'** chamber-scale concerts continue, taking music into rural and isolated communities.

- A major part of the Orchestra's work, **BSO Pops** shares 28 orchestral performances spanning film music favourites of John Williams and Hans Zimmer to symphonic specials of music by ELO, Led Zeppelin and more. Including, **Fareham Live**, and, for the first time **Plymouth's Theatre Royal**.
- **Main season debuts**, include: conductors **David Bates**, **Ludovic Morlot**, **Anna Rakitina**; cellists **Julian Steckel**, **Hugo Svedberg**; guitarist **Plínio Fernandes**; organist **Anna Lapwood**; pianists **Alim Beisembayev**, **Alexandre Tharaud**; saxophonist **Jess Gillam**; singers **Claudia Boyle**, **Anna Dennis**, **Bethany Horak-Hallet**, **Anita Monserrat**, **Joshua Stewart**, **William Thomas**, **Talis Trevigne**; viola player **Timothy Ridout**; violinist **Stephen Waarts**
- **Returning guests** include: conductors **Tom Fetherstonhaugh**, **Thierry Fischer**, **Marta Gardolińska**, **Sunwook Kim**, **Gergely Madaras**, **Karl-Heinz Steffens**; cellists **Johannes Moser**, **Daniel Müller-Schott**; pianists **Yulianna Avdeeva**, **Martin James Bartlett**, **Elisabeth Brauß**, **Boris Giltburg**, **Sir Stephen Hough**, **Vadym Kholodenko**, **Paul Lewis**, **Steven Osborne**, **Cédric Tiberghien**; singers **Anthony Gregory**, **Jennifer Johnston**, **Ashley Riches**, **Elizabeth Watts**; violinists **Nikita Borisov-Glebsky**, **Ning Feng**, **Clara-Jumi Kang**.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra today [7 May] announces its 2025/26 season, featuring Chief Conductor Mark Wigglesworth at the helm of an extraordinary line-up, including Artist-in-Residence Roderick Williams OBE and Celebrated Composer Dani Howard. With regular Community and Wellbeing Orchestras reaching throughout the South West, and music expanding into healthcare sites across the region, the season – supported by Poole Season Sponsor, Rathbones – is set to ignite the senses.

Across the year, the BSO performs 106 symphonic performances in 24 venues, plus dozens more chamber-scale Cake Concerts and 'BSO On Your Doorstep' events reaching into towns and villages. The Orchestra's livestreamed **Digital Concert series** enters its sixth year, with 19 main season performances broadcast live from **Lighthouse, Poole** and available to watch online for 30 days.

Mark Wigglesworth, Chief Conductor of the BSO, said:

"I am so proud to be part of this amazing orchestra, and next season promises a huge number of unforgettable performances. I am thrilled by the enormous breadth of music we will be playing for the vast number of people who choose to share in the experiences the BSO offers. Our communities are richer because of the concerts the BSO gives and in turn we at the BSO receive immeasurable inspiration and fulfilment from those who hear us play. It is a real privilege to be part of such strong musical and social connections."

Dani Howard, the BSO's 2025/26 Celebrated Composer, said:

*"It's a privilege to become the BSO's first Celebrated Composer, and I'm thrilled that audiences in the South West will experience my music under the baton of Mark Wigglesworth. The season opens with *The Butterfly Effect*, a work that explores the consequences of seemingly small actions, before the brilliant Jess Gillam gives the UK premiere of my *Saxophone Concerto* in early November. *Coalescence* is a work that explores the interplay between humanity and nature, and I'm eager for audiences in Exeter and Poole to hear it next spring."*

Baritone Roderick Williams OBE, the BSO's 2025/26 Artist-in-Residence, said:

"I'm really looking forward to my forthcoming residency with the BSO this year, both working with the Orchestra in the concert hall and also taking part in the essential work they do elsewhere. It will be a personal pleasure to work with Mark Wigglesworth again and to join soprano Claudia Boyle in Zemlinsky's Lyric Symphony – a work that has featured on my wish list for a long time – and joining the solo quartet team for Tippett's A Child of Our Time, a piece very close to my heart. On a smaller scale, I shall welcome audiences to my song recital – An English Winterreise, with pianist Christopher Glynn – which features 24 English language songs which are each inspired by the 24 individual songs from Schubert's great masterpiece: I look forward to bringing all this to Poole next season and to meeting fellow music-lovers from across the region."

Dougie Scarfe OBE DL, Chief Executive of the BSO, said:

"We can't wait for audiences to experience our upcoming season with Chief Conductor Mark Wigglesworth firmly embedded in the role. Among many highlights, we'll welcome superstar baritone Roderick Williams as Artist-in-Residence and share the music of Dani Howard, who becomes our first Celebrated Composer – a new series that builds on the Orchestra's heritage of supporting new British music."

"We're also proud to extend support for seven regular Community and Wellbeing Orchestras and to create a performance pathway for members of the National Open Youth Orchestra who unite with BSO Resound and musicians from the Orchestra to tour the region. Experiencing music together has a deep impact on people's lives, and we're proud to continue our series of 'BSO on Your Doorstep' chamber-scale concerts, reaching people in rural and community centres. Brilliant, live music is awe-inspiring and it's for everyone: wherever you are in the South West – or beyond, via our 19 livestreamed Digital Concerts – we're excited to share this extraordinary season with you."

Chief Conductor Mark Wigglesworth's second season at the helm

Mark Wigglesworth leads his second season as Chief Conductor of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra with 9 programmes across 22 performances, including a series of New Year's Viennese Gala concerts (1-10 Jan). Wigglesworth opens the season with a programme including Shostakovich Symphony No.10 and Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No.1 (1-3 Oct). He then leads a programme including Schubert's Symphony in B minor '*Unfinished*' and Zemlinsky's *Lyric Symphony* with **Artist-in-Residence Roderick Williams** and soprano **Claudia Boyle** (8 & 9 Oct). Wagner's overture to his rarely performed second opera, *Forbidden Love*, appears in a programme conducted by Wigglesworth that includes Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* (5 & 6 Nov).

Wigglesworth joins **Yulianna Avdeeva** in Brahms' Piano Concerto No.1 alongside music by Mozart and Kernis (10 & 11 Dec) - and **Clara-Jumi Kang**, in a performance of Beethoven's Violin Concerto (25 & 26 Feb). Rachmaninov's Symphony No.3 is included in a programme that features music by Bridge and Ravel's Piano Concerto in G with soloist **Alexandre Tharaud** (11 & 12 Mar), before Wigglesworth teams up with **Boris Giltburg** for a performance of Bartók's Piano Concerto No.2 (25 & 26 Mar). A programme in April includes Dvořák's Symphony No.8 and Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* with violinist **Stephen Waarts** and violist **Timothy Ridout** (15 & 16 Apr). The final concert of the main season features Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and Tippett's *A Child of our Time* with soprano **Talise Trevigne**, mezzo **Anita Monserrat**, tenor **Joshua Stewart** and Artist-in-Residence baritone **Roderick Williams** (13 May).

Celebrated Composer: Dani Howard

The 2025/26 season marks the start of the new Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra **Celebrated Composer** initiative – a programme supporting living British composers. The inaugural composer is **Dani Howard** whose music is regularly performed across Europe, the US and Asia, and the forthcoming season sees three of her works performed. Her piece *The Butterfly Effect* opens the season: it will be conducted by **Mark Wigglesworth** in Poole (1 Oct), Bristol (2 Oct) and Basingstoke (3 Oct). The BSO's performance of Howard's *The Butterfly Effect* is supported by **Resonate**, a PRS Foundation initiative in partnership with Association of British Orchestras and BBC Radio 3. In November, the Orchestra performs the **UK premiere** of Howard's Saxophone Concerto – a BSO co-commission – with **Jess Gillam** making her BSO debut (5 & 6 Nov). And Howard's piece, *Coalescence*, receives two performances under **Mark Wigglesworth** (15 & 16 Apr).

Dani Howard's music also features in eight BSO 'Explore the Orchestra' Schools' Concerts, in Bristol, Exeter, Poole and Portsmouth throughout the year.

Baritone Roderick Williams OBE becomes Artist-in-Residence

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's new **Artist-in-Residence** is the legendary baritone **Roderick Williams**. He appears in three programmes throughout the 2025/26 season, including singing the solo part in Zemlinsky's *Lyric Symphony* for the first time (8 & 9 Oct). In spring 2026, he performs 'An English Winterreise' – inspired by Schubert's masterpiece, it takes listeners through a cycle of 24 songs written by British composers, including, Bridge, Britten, Vaughan Williams, Errollyn Wallen and Judith Weir (25 & 29 Apr). And in May, Williams performs in Tippett's *A Child of our Time* conducted by **Mark Wigglesworth** (13 May). Williams also works with the BSO's Participate team across the season – and the Orchestra's symphonic Schools' Concerts take inspiration from his residency, with a programme inspired by the relationship between voice and orchestra.

BSO conductors: Chloé Van Soeterstède, David Hill MBE, Enyi Okpara

Principal Guest Conductor Chloé Van Soeterstède performs 3 programmes in the 2025/26 season including Korngold's Violin Concerto with soloist **Ning Feng** (26 & 27 Nov). She then conducts a programme in April including Saint-Saëns' Symphony No.3 '*Organ*' with soloist **Cédric Tiberghien** who performs Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1 as part of the same programme (22 & 23 Apr). Van Soeterstède then directs a performance of Poulenc's Organ Concerto with soloist **Anna Lapwood** (17 Jun). These April and June concerts include performances of Lili Boulanger's *D'un matin de printemps*, made possible with funding from the **ABO Trust's Sirens programme**, a ten-year initiative to support the performance and promotion of music by historical women composers..

Associate Guest Conductor David Hill returns to lead a programme of Ravel's *Tombeau de Couperin*, Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder* and Duruflé's Requiem with mezzo **Jennifer Johnston** and bass-baritone **Ashley Riches** (12 Nov). He then conducts a programme including Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme* with cellist **Hugo Svedberg** (13 Nov).

Enyi Okpara returns for his second year as **Calleva Assistant Conductor** after selection by BSO musicians in a challenging audition process last summer and a successful debut year. He performs a

programme in Exeter, Barnstaple and Truro including Dvořák's Cello Concerto with soloist **Johannes Moser** (9, 11 & 14 Sep). Mozart's Piano Concerto No.21 features in Okpara's second programme with pianist **Clare Hammond** (18 Sep). In December, he leads a programme including Bruch's Violin Concerto No.1 with soloist **Nikita Boriso-Glebsky** (3 & 5 Dec). And in spring 2026, Okpara conducts a programme including Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.1 with soloist **Martin James Bartlett** (6 May).

Okpara unites with musicians from the Orchestra, **BSO Resound** and members of the **National Open Youth Orchestra** – the pioneering inclusive orchestra for 11–25-year-old disabled and non-disabled musicians – in a tour of SEND and mainstream schools in 2026. The group also performs a 'BSO On Your Doorstep' concert at Wiltshire Music Centre (23 July).

Shostakovich's 50th anniversary – with Kirill Karabits OBE

Conductor Laureate and Artistic Director, **Voices from the East**, Kirill Karabits, directs a Shostakovich programme including *Theme and Variations*, *The Bolt Suite*, *Moscow*, *Cheryomushki Suite* and Piano Concerto No.2 with 2021 Leeds Competition champion **Alim Beisembayev** (11 & 12 Feb). The concert will be in memory of Dmitri Shostakovich marking 50 years since his death in 1975.

Chichester Cathedral's 950th anniversary – with Gergely Madaras

The Orchestra returns to Chichester in the autumn [22 Oct], to celebrate the 950th anniversary of the formation of the Diocese of Chichester and Chichester Cathedral. Under the baton of Gergely Madaras the BSO performs Elgar's arrangement of JS Bach's *Fantasia and Fugue* in C minor, Suk's *Meditation on St Wenceslas*, and Respighi's *Church Windows*. Kristine Balanas joins to perform Sibelius's Violin Concerto.

Community and Wellbeing Orchestras – and Dorset HealthCare expansion

Seven **Community and Wellbeing Orchestras** continue regular music-making across the South West, following successful pilots in recent seasons - in **Bodmin, Boscombe, Bristol, Chard, Exeter, Southampton** and **Wincanton**. The Orchestras are led by the BSO's team of experienced **BSO Associate Musicians** – who live and work throughout the South West – and add to the Associates' dynamic portfolio of local, community-based music-making.

Bodmin Wellbeing Orchestra continues in partnership with **Mind Cornwall**, and **Boscombe Community Orchestra** launches with **BEAF**, as part of BSO's ongoing Boscombe projects with a collective of charities supporting excluded groups including **Dorset Safe and Sound, Vita Nova, NHS Access and Wellbeing Hubs**.

Bristol Recovery Orchestra continues into its eighth year with partners **Bristol Drugs Project** – and two groups continue further south into Somerset in partnership with the **Octagon Theatre** in Yeovil: the **Somerset Wellbeing Orchestra**, in Chard, in partnership with **Ark at Egwood** and **Watch**; and **Time Together** – a Wincanton-based group supporting postnatal mental wellbeing for parents and their babies.

The **Exeter Community Family Orchestra**, in partnership with the **University of Exeter**, brings music-making into people's lives with a multi-generational group providing accessible and inclusive sessions – and new initiative, the Southampton-based **Maggies's Family Orchestra** makes music with cancer patients and families, in partnership with **Maggie's Southampton**.

The Orchestra's ongoing partnership with **Dorset County Hospital** and **Arts in Hospital** continues with weekly music-making on the wards in Dorchester, plus a new pilot programme with **Dorset HealthCare** to include an expansion of the work into the Alderney Hospital, Poole. The specialist programme is supporting the care and experiences of patients and staff from early intervention with young people through to people living with dementia and those at end of life.

BSO Resound creates development pathway for young performers

Formed in 2018, BSO Resound is the world's first disabled-led ensemble as part of a professional orchestra's core activities. In 2025, it welcomes members of the **National Open Youth Orchestra (NOYO)** – the pioneering inclusive orchestra for 11–25-year-old disabled and non-disabled musicians.

A 14-strong group, which also features musicians from Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and BSO Resound, will tour three SEND schools and a mainstream primary school, across Bristol, Dorset and Hampshire. The tour concludes with a public performance at **Wiltshire Music Centre** (23 July), conducted by Calleva Assistant Conductor Enyi Okpara. Sam Mason, a BSO Associate Musician and Music Leader of the Bournemouth NOYO Ensemble, presents the series.

Creating opportunities for children and young people to experience live music

The Orchestra's popular series of symphonic **Schools' Concerts**, 'Explore the Orchestra', returns to introduce thousands of Key Stage 2 pupils to live music. The BSO welcomes pupils to **Lighthouse, Poole**, the **University of Exeter**, **Bristol Beacon** and **Portsmouth Guildhall**. Inspired by the Orchestra's partnership with Artist-in-Residence, Roderick Williams, the series explores the relationship between the voice and orchestra, celebrating the myriad ways of telling stories together on stage.

Performances and workshops continue for **Key Stage 1** pupils in Somerset (in partnership with **The Octagon, Yeovil**), including CPD training to support classroom teaching. **GCSE Set Works** concerts continue in schools and community centres across the region (in partnership with **regional Music Hubs**). The Orchestra also partners with regional Music Hubs to pilot new activity to support music in schools – plus, specific work to encourage SEND pupils to access more music making. Cross-genre music-making opportunities will also be available to young people based in **Portsmouth** – plus, a new series to support care-experienced young people in **Bath and North East Somerset**.

The BSO's **Young Associates** programme – which supports aspiring community music leaders traditionally underrepresented in the sector – extends to offer legacy training to its graduates, deepening their skills and supporting their further career development. The programme has supported eight Young Associates since 2022.

Reaching audiences beyond the concert hall

The BSO's livestreamed **Digital Concerts** continue into a sixth season in 2025/26, as 19 main season Digital Concerts are livestreamed from the Orchestra's home at Lighthouse, Poole – each is **available live and for 30 days**. The series has reached over 150,000 people since 2020, when the concerts were first broadcast to global audiences. Chief Conductor Mark Wigglesworth opens the digital season and leading music broadcasters such as Catherine Bott, Katie Derham, Martin Handley, Tom Service and Sarah Walker join the Orchestra to present concerts to online audiences. Presenter Helen Arney joins the line-up in 2025/26.

The popular chamber-scale series '**BSO on your Doorstep**' returns in 2025/26, with dozens of events across the region, spanning Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and the Isle of Wight. The series combats rural isolation, delivering music directly into the heart of communities, and features family-friendly Relaxed Concerts. The series is delivered in partnership with Rural Touring Agencies **Artsreach** (Dorset) **Carn to Cove** (Cornwall), and **Villages in Action** (Devon), and direct with local promoters across the South West.

World-class conductors and soloists making their BSO debut

Main season debuts in the 2025/26 season include conductor **David Bates** who leads Handel's *Messiah* with soprano **Anna Dennis**, mezzo **Bethany Horak-Hallet**, tenor **Anthony Gregory** and bass **William Thomas** (17 Dec). Music Director of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, **Ludovic Morlot**, makes his BSO debut with Turina, de Falla, Debussy and Ravel (14 & 15 Jan). And conductor **Anna Rakitina** leads the BSO in a February programme (4 Feb).

Renowned cellist **Julian Steckel** performs Haydn's Cello Concerto in D (18 & 19 Mar). Bournemouth local, cellist **Hugo Svedberg**, shares Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme* (13 Nov) with audiences in Exeter.

Classical guitarist **Plínio Fernandes** debuts with Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* (5, 6 & 7 Mar). Star organist **Anna Lapwood** performs Poulenc's Organ Concerto (17 Jun).

Pianist **Alim Beisembayev** debuts in a performance of Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No.2 (11 & 12 Feb). Ravel's Piano Concerto in G is performed by **Alexandre Tharaud** (11 & 12 Mar).

Jess Gillam performs the UK premiere of Dani Howard's Saxophone Concerto – a BSO co-commission (5 & 6 Nov). Soprano **Claudia Boyle** makes her BSO debut in Zemlinsky's Lyric Symphony (8 & 9 Oct). Mezzo **Anita Monserrat** debuts in Tippett's *A Child of our Time* alongside tenor **Joshua Stewart** and soprano **Talise Trevigne**, also making their BSO debuts (13 May).

Violinist **Stephen Waarts** and violist **Timothy Ridout** make their BSO debuts in Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante (15 & 16 Apr).

Returning guest conductors and soloists

The 2025/26 season sees some remarkable artists returning to perform with the BSO. Former BSO Assistant Conductor, **Tom Fetherstonhaugh**, leads a programme in March (5, 6 & 7 Mar). Swiss conductor, **Thierry Fischer**, directs a programme including Mozart and Tchaikovsky (29 Oct). Former BSO Leverhulme Young Conductor in Association, **Marta Gardolińska**, continues her relationship with the Orchestra (21 & 22 Jan). Conductor, **Sunwook Kim**, directs a programme of Stravinsky, Beethoven and Mozart (28 & 29 Jan). **Gergely Madaras** returns to conduct Elgar's arrangement of Bach's Fantasia and Fugue in C minor as well as music by Sibelius, Suk and Respighi (15 & 22 Oct). And **Karl-Heinz Steffens** returns with Haydn and Mahler (18 & 19 Mar).

The revered cellist, **Johannes Moser**, returns with performances of Dvořák's Cello Concerto (9, 11 & 14 Sep). **Daniel Müller-Schott** joins audiences in Poole to perform Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme* (4 Feb).

The 2025/26 season features many returning pianists such as **Yulianna Avdeeva** (10 & 11 Dec), **Martin James Bartlett** (6 May), **Elisabeth Brauß** (28 & 29 Jan), **Boris Giltburg** (25 & 26 Mar), **Sir Stephen Hough** (1, 2 & 3 Oct), **Vadym Kholodenko** (21 & 22 Jan), **Paul Lewis** (29 Oct), **Steven Osborne** (14 & 15 Jan), and **Cédric Tiberghien** (22 & 23 Apr).

Virtuoso singers also return, such as mezzo **Jennifer Johnston** and bass-baritone **Ashley Riches** who perform solo parts in Duruflé's Requiem (12 Nov). Johnston also performs Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder* in the same concert. And soprano **Elizabeth Watts** returns to sing in the New Year Viennese Gala (1, 2, 3, 9 & 10 Jan).

Star violinist **Nikita Boriso-Glebsky** returns with Bruch (3 & 5 Dec), **Ning Feng** with Korngold (26 & 27 Nov) and **Clara-Jumi Kang** with Beethoven (25 & 26 Feb).

BSO Pops concerts

The Orchestra's much-loved **BSO Pops** series unites music lovers across the region with concerts celebrating some of the most enduring popular music in venues throughout the region. A major part of the Orchestra's work, BSO Pops shares 28 symphonic performances including, for the first time, **Plymouth's Theatre Royal** – and a return to **Fareham Live**, following success last year.

Highlights include symphonic celebrations of music from ELO [18 Oct and 26 Jan], Williams and Zimmer [25 Oct], The Beatles [9 Nov], Valentines Classics [14 Feb], Classic FM Hall of Fame [7 Mar], John Williams Blockbusters [29 Mar] and Led Zeppelin [2 May]. Further highlights include the BSO's festive celebrations, which include Messiah [17 Dec], Last Night of the Christmas Proms [20 Dec], Celebration of Christmas Carols [23 Dec] and New Year's Viennese Gala [1 Jan].

The BSO's 2025/26 main season is supported by Poole Season Sponsor, Rathbones.

-ENDS-

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1. High-resolution images [available here](#)
 - a) Chief Conductor Mark Wigglesworth ©Sim Canetty-Clarke
 - b) Mark Wigglesworth with the BSO ©Mark Allan
 - c) Principal Guest Conductor Chloé Van Soeterstède ©Olivia da Costa
 - d) Artist-in-Residence Roderick Williams ©Theo Williams
 - e) Celebrated Composer Dani Howard ©Emma Fenton
 - f) Saxophonist Jess Gillam ©Robin Clewley/Decca
 - g) Calleva Assistant Conductor Enyi Okpara ©BSO
 - h) BSO Chief Executive Dougie Scarfe OBE ©Corin Messer
2. Concert listings – on general sale from **Monday 19 May** at bsolive.com

Date = Indicates performances that are also available as a Digital Concert.

Date = Indicates a BSO Pops performance

Tue 9 Sept 2025 (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Thu 11 Sept (Barnstaple, Queen's Theatre)

Sun 14 September (Truro, Hall for Cornwall)

Enyi Okpara *conductor*

Johannes Moser *cello*

Smetana - Bartered Bride Overture

Dvořák - Cello Concerto

Beethoven - Symphony No.7

Thu 18 Sept 2025 (Portsmouth, Guildhall)

Enyi Okpara *conductor*

Clare Hammond *piano*

Mendelssohn - Hebrides Overture

Mozart - Piano Concerto No.21 K.467

Beethoven - Symphony No.7

Wed 1 Oct 2025 (Poole, Lighthouse) – season opener

Thu 2 Oct (Bristol Beacon)

Fri 3 Oct (Basingstoke, The Anvil)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Sir Stephen Hough *piano*

Dani Howard - The Butterfly Effect [our 'Celebrated Composer' this season]

Rachmaninov - Piano Concerto No.1

Shostakovich - Symphony No.10

Wed 8 Oct 2025 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 9 Oct (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Claudia Boyle *soprano*

Roderick Williams *baritone* [Artist-in-Residence]

Schubert - Symphony in B minor 'Unfinished'

Zemlinsky - Lyric Symphony

Wed 15 Oct 2025 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Wed 22 Oct 2025 (Chichester Cathedral)

Gergely Madaras *conductor*

Kristine Balanas *violin*

JS Bach arr. Elgar - Fantasia and Fugue in C minor

Sibelius - Violin Concerto

Suk - Meditation on St Wenceslas

Respighi - Church Windows

Sat 18 Oct 2025 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Symphonic ELO

Symphonic celebration of music from ELO, featuring hits such as *Livin' Thing*, *Mr Blue Sky* and *All Over the World*

Sat 25 Oct 2025 (Plymouth, Theatre Royal)

Williams and Zimmer

Music from two of the great film composers, John Williams and Hans Zimmer.

Wed 29 Oct 2025 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thierry Fischer *conductor*

Paul Lewis *piano*

Mozart - Piano Concerto No.25 K.503

Tchaikovsky - Manfred Op.58

Wed 5 Nov 2025 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 6 Nov (Bristol Beacon)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Jess Gillam *saxophone*

Wagner – *Forbidden Love* Overture

Dani Howard - Saxophone Concerto [UK premiere, BSO co-commission]

Berlioz - *Symphonie fantastique*

Sun 9 Nov 2025 (Southampton Mayflower)

The Two of Us: The Lennon & McCartney Songbook

Music celebrating the illustrious songwriting partnership of Lennon and McCartney.

Wed 12 Nov 2025 (Poole, Lighthouse)

David Hill *conductor*

Jennifer Johnston *mezzo*

Ashley Riches *bass-baritone*

Bournemouth Symphony Chorus

Ravel - *Tombeau de Couperin*

Wagner - *Wesendonck Lieder*

Duruflé - *Requiem*

Thu 13 Nov (Exeter, University Great Hall)

David Hill *conductor*

Hugo Svedberg *cello*

Ravel - *Tombeau de Couperin*

Tchaikovsky - *Variations on a Rococo Theme*

Fauré - *Pelléas and Mélisande Suite*

Mendelssohn - *Symphony No.4 'Italian'*

Wed 26 Nov 2025 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 27 Nov (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Chloé Van Soeterstède *conductor*

Ning Feng *violin*

Liszt - *Les Préludes*

Korngold - *Violin Concerto*

Dvořák - *Symphony No.6*

Wed 3 Dec 2025 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Fri 5 Dec (Fareham Live)

Enyi Okpara *conductor*

Nikita Boriso-Glebsky *violin*

Dvořák - Carnival Overture

Bruch - Violin Concerto No.1

Humperdinck - Three Excerpts from Hansel and Gretel

Tchaikovsky - Suite from Swan Lake

Wed 10 Dec 2025 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 11 Dec (Sherborne, Merritt Centre, Sherborne School for Girls)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Yulianna Avdeeva *piano*

Kernis - Musica Celestis

Mozart - Symphony No.39 K.543

Brahms - Piano Concerto No.1

Sat 13 Dec 2025 (Southampton, O2 Guildhall)

BSO Voices: Winter Wonderland

The BSO's Southampton-based community choir BSO Voices performs at the city's O2 Guildhall.

Wed 17 Dec 2025 (Poole, Lighthouse)

David Bates *conductor*

Bournemouth Symphony Chorus

Anna Dennis *soprano*

Bethany Horak-Hallett *mezzo*

Anthony Gregory *tenor*

William Thomas *bass*

Handel - Messiah

Fri 19 Dec 2025 (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Sat 20 Dec (Poole, Lighthouse)

Mon 22 Dec (Portsmouth, Guildhall)

Pete Harrison *conductor*

Last Night of the Christmas Proms

Seasonal favourites and festive fun

Tue 23 Dec 2025 (Poole, Lighthouse), including matinee

Bournemouth Symphony Chorus

Bournemouth Symphony Youth Chorus

A Celebration of Christmas Carols

Traditional Christmas sing-along

Thu 1 Jan 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Fri 2 Jan (Taunton, Brewhouse Theatre)

Sat 3 (Bristol Beacon)

Fri 9 Jan (Weymouth Pavilion*)

Sat 10 Jan (Fareham Live)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Liz Watts *soprano*

New Year Viennese Gala

*conductor Enyi Okpara

Wed 14 Jan 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 15 Jan (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Ludovic Morlot *conductor*

Steven Osborne *piano*

Turina - Danzas Fantásticas

de Falla - Nights in the Gardens of Spain

Debussy - Ibéria

Ravel - Boléro

Wed 21 Jan 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 22 Jan (Portsmouth, Guildhall [plus pm schools concert])

Marta Gardolińska *conductor*

Vadym Kholodenko *piano*

Tchaikovsky - Polonaise, from Eugene Onegin

Chopin - Piano Concerto No.1

Mendelssohn - Symphony No.3

Sun 25 Jan 2026 (Southampton, Mayflower Theatre)

Symphonic ELO

Symphonic celebration of music from ELO, featuring hits such as *Livin' Thing*, *Mr Blue Sky* and *All Over the World*

Wed 28 Jan 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 29 Jan (Exeter, University Great Hall [Fri 30 Jan schools concerts])

Sunwook Kim *conductor*

Elisabeth Brauss *piano*

Stravinsky - Dumbarton Oaks

Beethoven - Piano Concerto No.2

Mozart - Symphony No.41 'Jupiter'

Wed 4 Feb 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Anna Rakitina *conductor*

Daniel Müller-Schott *cello*

Grieg - Peer Gynt Suite No.1

Tchaikovsky - Variations on a Rococo Theme

Tchaikovsky - Symphony No.4

Wed 11 Feb 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 12 Feb (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Kirill Karabits *conductor*

Alim Beisembayev *piano*

Shostakovich - Theme and Variations

Shostakovich - Piano Concerto No.2

Shostakovich - The Bolt Suite

Shostakovich - Moscow Cheryomushki Suite

Sat 14 Feb 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Smooth Valentines Classics

Luscious symphonic classics to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Thurs 19 Feb 2026 (Fareham Live)

The Best of Williams and Zimmer

Music from two of the great film composers, John Williams and Hans Zimmer.

Wed 25 Feb 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 26 Feb (Bristol Beacon)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Clara-Jumi Kang *violin*

Beethoven - Violin Concerto

Elgar - Symphony No.2

Thu 5 Mar 2026 (Portsmouth, Guildhall)

Fri 6 Mar (Truro, Hall for Cornwall)

Sat 7 Mar (Poole, Lighthouse)

Tom Fetherstonhaugh *conductor*

Plínio Fernandes *guitar*

Hall of Fame

Rossini - Barber of Seville Overture

Rodrigo - Concierto de Aranjuez

Chabrier - España

Mussorgsky - Night on a bare mountain

Borodin - In the Steppes of Central Asia

Rimsky-Korsakov - Capriccio Espagnol

Wed 11 Mar 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 12 Mar (Bristol Beacon [Fri 13 Mar schools concert])

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Alexandre Tharaud *piano*

Bridge - Summer

Ravel - Piano Concerto in G

Rachmaninov - Symphony No.3

Wed 18 Mar 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 19 Mar (Portsmouth, Guildhall)

Karl-Heinz Steffens *conductor*

Julian Steckel *cello*

Haydn - Cello Concerto in D

Mahler - Symphony No.5

Sat 21 Mar 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

John Williams Blockbusters

Music celebrating the great film composer, John Williams.

Wed 25 Mar 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 26 Mar (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Boris Giltburg *piano*

Beethoven - Leonore Overture No.2

Bartók - Piano Concerto No.2

Sibelius - Symphony No.2

Fri 27 Mar 2026 (Bristol Beacon)

Sun 29 Mar 2026 (Southampton, Mayflower Theatre)

John Williams Blockbusters

Music celebrating the great film composer, John Williams.

Wed 15 Apr 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 16 Apr (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Stephen Waarts *violin*

Timothy Ridout *viola*

Dani Howard - Coalescence

Mozart - Sinfonia Concertante K.364

Dvořák - Symphony No.8

Wed 22 Apr 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 23 Apr (Basingstoke, The Anvil)

Chloé Van Soeterstède *conductor*

Cédric Tiberghien *piano*

Saint-Saëns - Phaeton

Tchaikovsky - Piano Concerto No.1

Lili Boulanger - D'un Matin de Printemps

Saint-Saëns - Symphony No.3 'Organ'

Sat 25 April 2026 (Southampton O2 Guildhall)

BSO Voices: Baroque Majesty

The BSO's Southampton-based community choir BSO Voices performs at the city's O2 Guildhall.

Wed 29 April 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Roderick Williams *baritone*

Christopher Glynn *piano*

Artist-in-Residence Recital

An English Winterreise including settings of Shakespeare, Tennyson, Blake and Thomas by composers including Vaughan Williams, Bridge, Britten and Wallen

Sat 2 May 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Led Zeppelin Symphonic

Music celebrating Led Zeppelin's classic hits.

Wed 6 May 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Enyi Okpara *conductor*

Martin James Bartlett *piano*

Bax - Tintagel

Beethoven - Piano Concerto No.1

Vaughan Williams - Symphony No.5

Wed 13 May 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Talise Trevigne *soprano*

Joshua Stewart *tenor*

Anita Monserrat *mezzo*

Roderick Williams *baritone*

Copland - Appalachian Spring

Tippett - A Child of Our Time

Wed 17 June 2026 (Bristol Beacon)

Chloé Van Soeterstède *conductor*

Anna Lapwood *organ*

Saint-Saëns - Phaeton

Poulenc - Organ Concerto

Lili Boulanger - D'un Matin de Printemps

Saint-Saëns - Symphony No.3 'Organ'

3) About Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra | bsolive.com

Chief Conductor – Mark Wigglesworth | 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.

About Rathbones Group Plc – Poole Season Sponsor

Rathbones Group Plc (Rathbones) provides individual investment and wealth management services for private clients, charities, trustees and professional partners. We have been trusted for generations to manage and preserve our clients' wealth. Our tradition of investing and acting responsibly has been with us from the beginning and continues to lead us forward. Our ambition is to be recognised as the UK's most responsible wealth manager. Rathbones has over 3,500 people in 23 UK locations and the Channel Islands. Its headquarters is 30 Gresham Street, London.

Rob Jones, Head of Bournemouth Office at Rathbones said: "We are delighted to continue our longstanding partnership with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra where our sponsorship now stretches back over 11 years. We truly value the continued benefits of our connection with this world-class orchestra and the wonderful work they do for the local community."