

PRESS RELEASE

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Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra partners with Marjorie House for monthly music boost at care home



Musicians unite with Marjorie House staff and residents ©Corin Messer

- **The BSO and Marjorie House care home in Poole launch new partnership**
- **Initiative sees care home and world-class orchestra unite**
- **The BSO's award-winning Participate programme creates more than 50,000 experiences beyond the concert hall each year**

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) and Marjorie House care home have joined forces for a new partnership which will see BSO musicians visit monthly bringing live music to care home residents, families and staff.

'Music at Marjorie House' is a 12-month programme of monthly live concerts delivered by the BSO's professional musicians at Care South's newest home which provides residential and dementia care near Evening Hill, Poole.

Performances will include duets, classical pieces, and music inspired by the residents' musical tastes and interests. The sessions are designed to spark joy, stimulate memories, and enhance social connection for residents, their families and the care home team.

The intimate, curated performances will take place in Marjorie House, an Art Deco-style home offering views over Poole Harbour towards Brownsea Island and Sandbanks.

The series began with a taster session featuring cellist Judith Burgin and accordion player Hugh Nankivell at Marjorie House, which is owned and operated by not-for-profit charity, Care South, to give staff and residents first-hand experience of the activity.

Dougie Scarfe OBE, CEO of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, said: *"The BSO exists to bring music into people's lives, including those beyond the concert hall, and this partnership with Marjorie House is a perfect example of how our musicians work in the community."*

"We have a hard-earned and longstanding reputation for our creative health work, of which dementia-friendly music-making is a big part, and it gives us the opportunity to take exceptional music into new settings to enrich the cultural lives of people of all ages."

The BSO is a registered charity well known for its community engagement. Its award-winning BSO Participate programme builds connections, improves health and wellbeing and enriches creativity and learning throughout the South West in association with a series of specialist partners.

Every year, the programme creates more than 50,000 opportunities for adults, children and young people, to learn, experience and create music. This work not only includes dementia friendly concerts, but also interactive schools' performances, rising talent development and wider creative health work in the community, hospitals and care settings which takes place in supportive and safe environments.

Georgie Powell, Home Manager at Marjorie House, said: *"We are thrilled to welcome these extremely talented musicians from Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra into the home to play for our residents on a regular basis."*

"Many of our residents have enjoyed BSO's recitals at the Lighthouse over the years, which is located close to the home, and they all have a real passion for music, so this is a very exciting opportunity for us."

"They have already spoken to the musicians about the music that reminds them of their childhood, their families and friends or invokes a special memory, so they are looking forward to hearing some of those pieces live, up-close and in-person."

“We are certain that these sessions will further enhance resident wellbeing as music has proven benefits for older adults including lifting mood, supporting memory, and fostering connection.”

Marjorie House was named as one of the Top 20 Care Homes in the South West at the Care Home Awards 2026 run by carehome.co.uk. Each floor has a dedicated dining area, activity spaces and lounges, with a wide choice of communal facilities including the Captain’s Club bar, hair salon and nail bar, terraced gardens and a putting green.

Marjorie House has a varied activities programme which is tailored to the residents’ hobbies and interests and the new BSO partnership further strengthens the activities on offer.

Care South is a not-for-profit charity and a leading provider of residential, dementia and nursing care and care at home services across the south of England. As well as Marjorie House’s individual award, Care South was named as one of the UK’s Top 20 Care Home Groups in the Mid-Size Large Group category at the Care Home Awards 2026.

The charity, based in Poole, has care homes in Dorset, Devon and Somerset, as well as care at home services based in Dorset and Somerset.

See bsolive.com for full details of the BSO’s performances and work in the community.

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1. **More high-resolution images available on request:**
 - a) BSO musicians join Marjorie House residents and staff @Corin Messer
2. **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 performing organisation 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 **Plínio 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 **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 Marjorie House**

Marjorie House, based on Crichel Mount Road, has been built in an Art Deco-style, offering ensuite bedrooms with scenic views over Poole Harbour. Each floor has a dedicated dining area, activity spaces and lounges, with a wide choice of communal facilities including the Captain's Club bar, hair salon and nail bar, terraced gardens and a putting green.

The home recently celebrated being rated as 'Good' following its first CQC inspection since Marjorie House opened in September 2024. The care home team was also proud to be recognised as one of the Top 20 Care Homes in the South West at the Care Home Awards 2026. Recognition is based on reviews from residents, relatives and loved ones on carehome.co.uk, where Marjorie House is rated 10 out of 10.

Care South is a leading provider of high-quality residential and home care services across the south of England, with care homes in Dorset, north Devon and Somerset, and care at home offices covering Dorset and Somerset.

For more information about Marjorie House, go to [care-south.co.uk](https://www.care-south.co.uk) or call 01202 148221 to arrange a tour of the home.