

EMBARGOED UNTIL 13 MAY 2026, 10:00

ROAD TO JOY: BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TOURS 100 CONCERTS ACROSS SOUTH WEST AS BEETHOVEN SERIES BEGINS



*Clockwise from top: Mark Wigglesworth; Dame Evelyn Glennie; Chloé Van Soeterstède;
Thomas Adès; Boris Giltburg; Michal Oren*

- Chief Conductor **Mark Wigglesworth** leads **18 performances** and launches a **two-year Beethoven celebration** ahead of the anniversary of the composer's death in 2027.
- **Dame Evelyn Glennie** and **Jonathan Dibleby** feature in the first of three weekends that delve into Beethoven's impact on humankind – in **Bristol** and **Dorset**.
- **Thomas Adès** becomes the BSO's Celebrated Composer, with 8 symphonic performances across the region. Adès conducts a programme which couples his music with works by Sibelius and Rautavaara.
- **Pianist Boris Giltburg** becomes the Orchestra's **Artist-in-Residence**, with five appearances across the season.
- **Digital Concert Sponsor Lark Music** supports the Orchestra's seventh live broadcast series, with 18 concerts from Lighthouse, Poole to homes around the world.
- **BSO On Your Doorstep** concerts return, taking music into the heart of rural and isolated communities – and open-air concerts include **Portsmouth Guildhall Square** as the city marks its centenary.
- Principal Guest Conductor **Chloé Van Soeterstède** conducts five performances across the season, while Conductors Laureate **Kirill Karabits OBE** and **Andrew Litton** return in addition to Associate Guest Conductor **David Hill MBE** in his 70th birthday year.
- **Calleva Assistant Conductor Michal Oren** joins the Orchestra, conducting the BSO in Barnstaple, Exeter, Portsmouth, Weymouth – and Poole in a programme of festive seasonal classics. She also conducts 8 'Explore the Orchestra' schools' concerts.

- Guest artists visiting the Orchestra for the first time include: conductors **Charlotte Corderoy**, **Andrew Manze**, **Paul McCreesh**, **Peter Whelan**; clarinettist **Carlos Ferreira**; pianists **Jonathan Biss**, **Junyan Chen**, **Yeol Eum Son**, **Eva Gevorgyan**, **Isata Kanneh-Mason**, **Javier Perianes**; singers **Olivia Boen**, **Anna Harvey**, **Tom Walker**, **Kitty Whately**, **Nardus Williams**; and violinists **Stella Chen**, **Johan Dalene**.
- Returning guests include: pianists **Martin James Bartlett**, **David Fray**, **Sunwook Kim**; singer **Nicky Spence** and violinist **Tamsin Waley-Cohen**. BSO Principal Cello **Jesper Svedberg** and BSO Principal Bassoon **Tammy Thorn** also appear as soloists during the season.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra today [13 May] announces its 2026/27 season featuring Chief Conductor Mark Wigglesworth at the helm of a glittering line-up, which includes Celebrated Composer Thomas Adès and Artist-in-Residence Boris Giltburg, with music shared beyond the concert hall through composer workshops, schools' concerts and more. The season also marks the start of a two-year Beethoven celebration – Road to Joy - which explores the composer's enduring impact.

Across the season, the Orchestra performs more than **100 symphonic performances** in over 20 locations, with dozens more 'BSO On Your Doorstep' events and community-based Cake Concerts reaching deeper into towns and villages. The Orchestra's live broadcast concert series enters its seventh year, with **Digital Concert Sponsor Lark Music** supporting 18 main season performances from **Lighthouse, Poole**; each is available to watch live and on demand for 30 days.

Mark Wigglesworth, Chief Conductor of the BSO, said: *"Whenever and wherever the BSO plays, the artistry and commitment of its players is loud and clear. The connection music affords us is profound, a connection that is celebrated every time the BSO performs.*

"The 26/27 season may be centred around the first part of 'Beethoven: Road to Joy', but in between these four symphonic pillars we will be playing a huge range of musical styles. Whatever people's musical taste, there is something for everyone - opportunities to listen to music that is well-known alongside chances to discover something new. From the elegance of the Baroque to the extravagance of Wagner, the clarity of Sibelius and the intensity of Mahler, the poetry of Elgar and the novelty of Adès, our season is full of symphonic thrills, operatic highlights, and cinematic spectaculars."

Thomas Adès, the BSO's 2026/27 Celebrated Composer, said: *"I'm delighted that Mark Wigglesworth, Chloé Van Soeterstède, and the wonderful musicians of the Bournemouth Symphony will be showcasing my work in their 26/27 season, alongside two great and talented exponents of my music in Anthony Marwood and Johan Dalene. I am hugely looking forward to making my debut with the Orchestra in May with Johan in Air, my homage to Sibelius (whose works I will also present in Poole) and Rautavaara's Deux Sérénades."*

Pianist Boris Giltburg, the BSO's 2026/27 Artist-in-Residence, said: *"The BSO have been a constant part of my musical life for the last 20 years, and I am honoured and excited to be returning to the Orchestra as their Artist-in-Residence in the 2026/27 season. It'll be wonderful to reunite with the BSO's friendly and passionate musicians and the enthusiastic audiences, as well as to collaborate again with Mark Wigglesworth – our concerts together have been among the highlights of the last years. I'm looking forward to touring the region together, performing concertos by Schumann and Rachmaninov, before I return to Lighthouse, Poole for a solo recital in March."*

Dougie Scarfe OBE DL, Chief Executive of the BSO, said: “We can’t wait to begin this new season, which tours extraordinary music into all corners of the South West. As we look ahead to our two-year Beethoven focus, I’m thrilled that we do so with Chief Conductor Mark Wigglesworth at the helm; the series promises to dive deep into how and why this music came to be and its enduring relevance to our modern lives. Both concert audiences and aspiring young musicians are set to benefit further as we welcome Celebrated Composer Thomas Adès – he is recognised around the globe as an exceptional talent and we’re thrilled to share his music – and pianist Boris Giltburg, whose performances have wowed audiences, as he returns across the year as Artist-in-Residence.

“Bringing music into people’s lives is at the heart of what we do. On top of our continued programmes of work, we’re supporting primary schools in Boscombe (Bournemouth) in creative health, we’re expanding music-making in hospitals through our new programme with Southampton Hospitals Charity, and we welcome Lark Music as Digital Concert Sponsor as we continue to invest in live broadcast concerts to reach those who cannot come to the concert hall. Wherever you are, we’re excited to share our live music with you.”

Chief Conductor Mark Wigglesworth’s third season: Beethoven & Britten anniversaries

Chief Conductor **Mark Wigglesworth** returns for his third season at the helm, opening the season with Beethoven’s Symphony No.1 and Henk de Vlieger’s arrangement of Wagner’s *Ring* cycle [30 Sep – 1 Oct]. Throughout the season, Wigglesworth conducts 17 concerts with leading soloists including Artist-in-Residence **Boris Giltburg** [4-5 Nov and 20-21 Jan], violinist **Anthony Marwood** in a programme that celebrates the BSO’s close association with composers such as Tippett, Vaughan Williams, Adès and Sibelius [21-22 Oct] and cellist **Jesper Svedberg** [24-26 Feb].

In March, Wigglesworth celebrates Beethoven’s bicentenary with his mighty Symphony No.3 ‘Eroica’ and *Cantata on the Death of Emperor Joseph II* [17-18 Mar]. The cantata – written when the composer was 19 but not premiered until 57 years after he died – will be performed with soprano **Nardus Williams**, mezzo-soprano **Kitty Whately**, tenor **Anthony Gregory**, bass **Andrew Foster-Williams** and **Bournemouth Symphony Chorus**. He also conducts the final Poole season concert featuring Elgar’s *The Dream of Gerontius* with Bournemouth Symphony Chorus [12 May].

Beethoven Series

Beginning in October 2026, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra celebrates Beethoven with a series *Beethoven: Road to Joy* ahead of his bicentenary in 2027. The series includes three immersive weekends – *Beethoven Now* – exploring the composer’s universal relevance to who we are today. The first of these takes place 31 October – 1 November 2026 and will focus on the man, the second the music and the third will explore the society in which he lived. The series runs across two concert seasons, until 2028.

Through performance, conversation, and debate, audiences will explore Beethoven beyond the actual music – with the first weekend interrogating how it feels to find it hard to connect to society. Broadcaster **Sarah Walker** introduces events in Dorset [31 Oct] and **Tom Service** in Bristol [1 Nov]. Beethoven’s life will be illustrated by readings from his letters accompanied by excerpts from his string quartets; percussionist **Dame Evelyn Glennie** will help us understand more about the musical and social implications of deafness; and the afternoon will end with an audience debate chaired by broadcaster **Jonathan Dimbleby**.

Britten's 50th anniversary

December 2026 marks 50 years since Benjamin Britten's death. In celebration of the British composer, Wigglesworth will conduct his *Sinfonia da Requiem* written when the composer was 26. The programme includes Mahler's Symphony No.4 with soprano **Olivia Boen**, which will be Wigglesworth's first Mahler with the BSO [2-3 Dec]. In the preceding week, the Orchestra features composers who held a special place in Britten's heart, alongside conductor Andrew Manze and pianist Yeol Eum Son [25 Nov].

Celebrated Composer: Thomas Adès

The Grammy-award winning musician **Thomas Adès** is Celebrated Composer for the 2026/27 season. Four of his pieces are performed across the season – including: *Märchentänze*; *Dawn - Chacony for Orchestra at any Distance*; and *Three-piece Suite* from *Powder Her Face*. Adès conducts the programme that includes the final one: *Air – Homage to Sibelius* for violin and orchestra in the 70th anniversary year of the Finnish composer's death [5 May].

Adès' music will feature in the **BSO's schools' concerts**, in Poole in May 2027: around 10,000 primary-aged pupils and their teachers attend the four Poole performances and access the livestreamed concert each year. Young composers in Bristol will also benefit from Adès' residency when his music features alongside BSO Associate Musician Dr Jon James for a **young composers' workshop** at Bristol Beacon in April 2027.

Pianist Boris Giltburg becomes Artist-in-Residence

The Artist-in-Residence for 2026/27 is Gramophone-award winning pianist **Boris Giltburg** who performs five concerts across the season. Giltburg will perform Schumann's Piano Concerto [4-5 Nov] and both Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No.4 and *Variations on a Theme of Paganini* [20-21 Jan] – in addition to a recital of Prokofiev's *Visions fugitives*, Schumann's *Carnaval* and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* [10 Mar]. Young performers will have the opportunity to learn from Giltburg when he unites with fellow pianists for a masterclass at Bristol Beacon.

BSO conductors: Chloé Van Soeterstède, Kirill Karabits OBE, David Hill MBE, Andrew Litton – and new Calleva Assistant Conductor Michal Oren

Principal Guest Conductor Chloé Van Soeterstède leads three programmes including Rachmaninov Symphony No. 1, Dvořák's Symphony No.9 '*From the New World*', Lili Boulanger's *D'un Soir Triste* and more.

Conductor Laureate & Artistic Director, **Voices from the East**, Kirill Karabits OBE returns to conduct Khachaturian's *Spartacus Suite* and Respighi's *Pines of Rome* – with Berio's *Folk Songs* in Poole [3 Mar] and Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme* in Bristol [16 June]. **Associate Guest Conductor David Hill MBE** marks his 70th year with a performance of Haydn's beloved oratorio, *The Creation* [10 Feb], and **Conductor Laureate Andrew Litton** returns leading a programme of Walton, Tchaikovsky and Beethoven [18-19 Nov].

Michal Oren embarks on her first season as **Calleva Assistant Conductor** after winning the musicians' vote in the biennial competition earlier this spring. She will experience the breadth of the BSO's work, conducting symphonic performances – including BSO Pops concerts – plus education events and chamber-scale concerts throughout the region.

The BSO's Digital Concert series continues into a seventh season

Lark Music deepens its relationship with the Orchestra when it becomes Digital Concert Sponsor, supporting 18 live broadcast performances from Lighthouse, Poole. The series, which was **viewed more than 19,500 times** in the last year, begins its seventh season from October 2026. Broadcasters including **Tom Service** and **Sarah Walker** return to introduce audiences from around the globe to the Orchestra's music.

BSO On Your Doorstep, Open-Air concerts & BSO Resound

The Orchestra's popular chamber-scale series '**BSO On Your Doorstep**' continues, touring performances into community spaces across the South West. A mix of family-friendly and Relaxed Concerts complements traditional chamber music performances. This season, pieces by **Ruth Gipps** sit at the core of a programme of wind music, while the Orchestra's string players will tour a 'Serenades and Starbursts' programme inspired by **Jessie Montgomery's Starburst**. Venues span Cornwall, Devon and Dorset and include **Wiltshire Music Centre**, where a Relaxed Concert with **BSO Resound** concludes a schools' tour.

The Orchestra's popular **Open-Air concerts** inject energy into the heart of urban centres across the region. Following a popular debut in 2025, two concerts return to **Portsmouth Guildhall Square** [17-18 July] – in partnership with The Guildhall Trust and supported by Portsmouth City Council – as the city marks its centenary this summer. The BSO also returns to **Bournemouth's Meyrick Park** [7-8 Aug], providing a highlight in the town's summer calendar, sponsored by Lester Aldridge Solicitors and supported by BCP Council.

Creating opportunities for children and young people

The Orchestra's relationships with music education partners in the South West created almost 400 learning experiences last year, with more than 58,800 participations.

Pupils at **primary schools in Boscombe (Bournemouth)** will benefit from a new pilot programme to support creative health, from summer 2026. The co-designed project uses creativity as a tool for expression, connection and mental wellbeing. Created to precisely fit each school's needs, it explores the positive impact of music on the health and wellbeing of both staff and pupils.

Two aspiring community music leaders will become trainee **BSO Young Associates** in late 2026. The seven-month music leader training programme is designed for 18-26-year-olds currently under-represented in the arts. It provides a career springboard for talented young people to develop skills in music leading through practical experience, training and mentoring.

Pupils at schools in Dorset, and across the South West will experience **schools' concerts with musicians from the Orchestra, BSO Resound** (the BSO's disabled-led ensemble) and **National Open Youth Orchestra (NOYO)** when they unite to tour mainstream and SEND schools in summer 2026. The tour culminates in a relaxed performance in Bradford-on-Avon.

Further opportunities include a continuation of the BSO's **schools' tours to support the curriculum** at Key Stage 1, GCSE and A Level – and its **Explore the Orchestra tour**, which reaches thousands of Key Stage 2 pupils and their teachers each year with performances in Bristol, Exeter, Poole and Portsmouth. This season, the concerts are based on the magic of the human voice and are led by composer **James Redwood** and soprano **Felicity Buckland**.

Health and Wellbeing to inject music into care

The Orchestra's partnerships with health and care providers across the South West – which delivered more than 4,100 participations in creative health experiences last year – continue in 2026/27, led by its unique team of dynamic **BSO Associate** and **Young Associate Musicians**, based in all corners of the region.

Following a successful pilot programme, the BSO's partnership with **Southampton Hospitals Charity** continues into the summer, extending music making to include staff, patients and relatives in wider units and wards across UHS hospital sites. The Orchestra's weekly music-making at **Dorset County Hospital** (with Arts in Hospital) continues to support patients and staff in the Dementia, Stroke and Children's units – and its regular workshops across further **Dorset HealthCare** sites continue, underpinned by a three-year commitment from Garfield Weston Foundation.

The BSO's work to support older people – namely its **Care Home concerts** and community-based **Cake Concerts** – continue throughout the season. A new partnership with **Marjorie House** care home in Lilliput, run by leading provider of residential and care at home Care South, will deliver monthly recitals to support residents, staff and families.

The Orchestra's **Community and Wellbeing Orchestras** continue – in **Bodmin, Boscombe, Bristol, Chard, Exeter, Newquay** and **Wincanton**. The groups support a range of creative health needs and include: **Music in Mind Cornwall** (in Bodmin and Newquay in partnership with Cornwall Mind); **Boscombe Community Orchestra** (with BEAF, TOSH, Recreate Dorset); **Bristol Recovery Orchestra** (with Bristol Drugs Project Creative Communities); **Somerset Wellbeing Orchestra** (in partnership with Ark at Egwood and Chard Watch); and **Exeter Community Family Orchestra** (with University of Exeter). **Time Together** (in partnership with The Octagon, Yeovil and The Balsam Centre, Wincanton) also continues to support new parents reconnect with their babies.

BSO Pops concerts

The Orchestra's much-loved **BSO Pops** series returns including leading European Elvis Presley tribute artist, **Lee Memphis King** [7 Nov] – and **Guitar Superstars**, which promises a fresh take on beloved hits.

A celebration of film music for all ages includes, **How to Train Your Dragon In Concert** [15-16 Jan], **Julie Andrews: A Celebration** [13 Feb], **Christmas at the Movies**, [29 Nov & 4 Dec], and **The Snowman** with the BSO performing Howard Blake's iconic score [22 Dec]. The Orchestra marks 50 years since the release of **Star Wars: A New Hope** with a performance of John Williams' music from the entire film saga since 1977 [6 Mar] – and **The Best of Bond** [21 Mar] shines a light on more memorable hits.

The Orchestra's ever-popular series of festive classics provide a highlight to end the year. **Last Night of the Christmas Proms** visits Exeter [18 Dec], Poole [19 Dec] and Portsmouth [21 Dec]. The BSO unites with Bournemouth Symphony Chorus to share in a **Celebration of Christmas Carols** in two performances in Poole [23 Dec]. Plus, performances of **New Year's Viennese Gala** tour the region [1-9 January].

World-class conductors and soloists appearing with the BSO for the first time

Performers joining the BSO on stage for the first time include: conductors **Charlotte Corderoy** [28-29 Oct], **Andrew Manze** [25 Nov], **Paul McCreech** [16 Dec] and **Peter Whelan** [14 Oct].

Instrumentalists include pianists: **Jonathan Biss** [18-19 Nov] to perform Beethoven's *Emperor* Concerto; **Junyan Chen** [28-29 Oct] for Saint-Saëns' Second Piano Concerto; **Eva Gevorgyan** [3-4 Feb] in Grieg's Piano Concerto; **Isata Kanneh-Mason** [16-24 April] with Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F; **Javier Perianes** [7-8 Oct] with the Fifth Piano Concerto of Saint-Saëns; and **Yeol Eum Son** with Mozart's Piano Concerto No.22, K.482 [25 Nov]. Clarinetist and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Principal **Carlos Ferreira** performs Mozart's Clarinet Concerto [27 Jan]; violinist **Stella Chen** performs Barber's Violin Concerto [14 Apr] and **Johan Dalene** performs in a programme of music by Rautavaara and Adès [5 May]. Singers **Olivia Boen**, **Anna Harvey** and **Tom Walker** perform with the Orchestra for the first time - as do **Kitty Whately** and **Nardus Williams**, who lead a stellar cast for Beethoven's *Cantata on the Death of Emperor Joseph II* [17-18 Mar].

Returning guest conductors and soloists

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's 2026/27 season features many world-class returning musicians. Guest conductors include **Jamie Phillips** [17-22 Sep], **Gavin Carr** [23 Dec], **Jac van Steen** [27 Jan], **Alexandre Bloch** [17-18 Feb] and **Tom Fetherstonhaugh** who leads the New Year Viennese Gala concerts [1-9 Jan].

Instrumental soloists this season include **Martin James Barlett** performing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 [17-22 Sep], **David Fray** with Ravel's *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales* [17-18 Feb] and long-time BSO collaborator **Sunwook Kim** returns to perform Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 2 [28-29 Apr]. Violinist **Tamsin Waley-Cohen** performs Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto [10, 14 Sep], **Anthony Marwood** performs Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* and Adès' *Märchentänze* [21-22 Oct]. Other instrumental soloists featured in the season are bassoonist **Tammy Thorn**, cellists **Jesper Svedberg** and **Hugo Svedberg**, and violinists **Maria Włoszczowska** and **Nikita Boriso-Glebsky**.

The season also sees BSO collaborate with leading singers across their performances of Handel's *Messiah*, Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, Haydn's *The Creation* and more. Soloists include **Claudia Boyle**, **Katie Bray**, **Matthew Brook**, **Rihab Chaieb**, **Anna Dennis**, **Anna Devin**, **Marcus Farnsworth**, **Andrew Foster-Williams**, **Anthony Gregory**, **Benjamin Hulett**, **Christopher Purves**, **Nicky Spence**, and more.

The BSO's 2026/27 main season is available on general sale from Wednesday 27 May – members can access priority booking from Thursday 14 May.

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

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1. High-resolution images [available here](#)
 - a) Chief Conductor Mark Wigglesworth ©Mark Allan
 - b) Mark Wigglesworth with the BSO at Bristol Beacon ©Mark Allan
 - c) Principal Guest Conductor Chloé Van Soeterstède ©Olivia da Costa
 - d) Celebrated Composer Thomas Adès ©Marco Boggreve
 - e) Artist-in-Residence Boris Giltburg ©Sasha Gusov
 - f) Calleva Assistant Conductor Michal Oren ©Olivia da Costa
 - g) Percussionist Evelyn Glennie ©Philip Rathmer
 - h) BSO Chief Executive Dougie Scarfe OBE ©Corin Messer

2. Concert listings – on general sale from **Wednesday 27 May** at bsolive.com

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

Date = Indicates a BSO Pops performance

Thurs 10 Sep 2026 (Weymouth Pavilion)

Mon 14 Sep (Barnstaple, Queen's Theatre)

Michal Oren *conductor*

Tamsin Waley-Cohen *violin*

Vaughan Williams – *Five Variants on Dives and Lazarus*

Mendelssohn – Violin Concerto

Massenet – Meditation from *Thais*

Bizet – Symphony in C

Thu 17 Sep 2026 (Portsmouth, Guildhall)

Jamie Phillips *conductor*

Martin James Bartlett *piano*

Smetana – Overture from *The Bartered Bride*

Tchaikovsky - Piano Concerto No.1

Brahms - Symphony No.2

Fri 18 Sep (Truro, Hall for Cornwall)

Tue 22 Sep (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Jamie Phillips *conductor*

Martin James Bartlett *piano*

Mendelssohn - *Hebrides* Overture

Tchaikovsky - Piano Concerto No.1

Brahms - Symphony No.2

Fri 25 Sep 2026 (Plymouth, Theatre Royal)

Star Wars: The Definitive Concert

Pete Harrison *conductor*

Wed 30 Sep 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 1 Oct (Bristol Beacon)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Beethoven – Symphony No.1

Wagner arr. de Vlieger - *The Ring: An Orchestral Adventure*

Wed 7 Oct 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 8 Oct (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Chloé Van Soeterstède *conductor*

Javier Perianes *piano*

Rimsky-Korsakov - *The Tsar's Bride* Overture

Saint-Saëns - Piano Concerto No.5 '*Egyptian*'

Rachmaninov - Symphony No.1

Wed 14 Oct 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Peter Whelan *conductor*

Tammy Thorn *bassoon*

JC Bach - Symphony in G minor Op.6 No. 6

Mozart - Concerto for Bassoon K.191

CPE Bach - Sinfonia in B minor, Wq.182/5

Haydn - Symphony No.104 '*London*'

Wed 21 Oct 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 22 Oct (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Anthony Marwood *violin*

Tippett - Concerto for Double String Orchestra

Vaughan Williams - *The Lark Ascending*

Thomas Adès - *Märchentänze* [Celebrated Composer]

Sibelius - Symphony No.5

Wed 28 Oct 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 29 Oct (Portsmouth, Guildhall)

Charlotte Corderoy *conductor*

Junyan Chen *piano*

Mozart - Overture to *Don Giovanni*

Saint-Saëns- Piano Concerto No.2

Rimsky-Korsakov - *Scheherazade*

Sat 31 Oct 2026 (Assembly Hall, Canford School)
Sun 1 Nov (The Lantern, Bristol Beacon)
Beethoven Immersive session: weekend one

Wed 4 Nov 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 5 Nov (Bristol Beacon)
Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*
Boris Giltburg *piano, Artist in Residence*
Prokofiev - Classical Symphony
Schumann - Piano Concerto
Beethoven - Symphony No.2

Sat 7 Nov 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Elvis: Viva Las Vegas!
Stephen Bell *conductor*
Lee Memphis King *singer*

Wed 18 Nov 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 19 Nov (Portsmouth, Guildhall)
Andrew Litton *conductor*
Jonathan Biss *piano*
Walton - *Crown Imperial March*
Beethoven - Piano Concerto No.5 'Emperor'
Tchaikovsky - Suite No.3

Sat 21 Nov 2026 (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Exeter Philharmonic Choir
Orff - *Carmina Burana* [side by side project]

Wed 25 Nov 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Andrew Manze *conductor*
Yeol Eum Son *piano*
Mahler arr. Britten - *What the Wild Flowers Tell Me*
Mozart - Piano Concerto No.22 K.482
Schumann - Symphony No.1 'Spring'

Sun 29 Nov 2026 (Southampton, Mayflower Theatre)

Christmas at the Movies
Pete Harrison *conductor*

Wed 2 Dec 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 3 Dec 2026 (Exeter, University Great Hall)
Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*
Olivia Boen *soprano*
Britten - *Sinfonia da Requiem*
Mahler - Symphony No.4

Fri 4 Dec 2026 (Bristol Beacon)

Christmas at the Movies
Pete Harrison *conductor*

Wed 9 Dec 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Michal Oren *conductor*
Maria Włoszczowska *director/violin*
Corelli - Concerto Grosso in G minor, Op.6
No.8 'Christmas Concerto'
Vivaldi - *Autumn and Winter* from the *Four Seasons*
Mussorgsky - *Night on a Bare Mountain*
Tchaikovsky - *Nutcracker Suite*

Wed 16 Dec 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Paul McCreech *conductor*
Anna Dennis *soprano*
Anna Harvey *mezzo soprano*
Tom Walker *tenor*
Matthew Brook *bass-baritone*
Bournemouth Symphony Chorus
Handel - *Messiah*

Fri 18 Dec 2026 (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Sat 19 Dec (Poole, Lighthouse)

Mon 21 Dec 2026 (Portsmouth, Guildhall)

Michal Oren *conductor*
Joe Stilgoe *singer*
Last Night of the Christmas Proms

Tue 22 Dec 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

The Snowman [11am & 7pm]
Teresa Barlow *conductor*
BSO Voices

Wed 23 Dec 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Gavin Carr *conductor*
Bournemouth Symphony Chorus & Youth Chorus
A Celebration of Christmas Carols [3pm & 7pm]

Fri 1 Jan 2027 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Sat 2 Jan (Taunton, Brewhouse Theatre)

Sun 3 Jan (Bristol Beacon)

Thu 7 Jan (Fareham Live)

Fri 8 Jan (Plymouth, Theatre Royal)

Sat 9 Jan (Weymouth, Pavilion)

Tom Fetherstonhaugh *conductor*
Claudia Boyle *soprano*
New Year Viennese Gala

Fri 15 Jan 2027 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Sat 16 Jan (Poole, Lighthouse)

Ellie Slorach *conductor*
How to Train Your Dragon: In Concert

Wed 20 Jan 2027 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 21 Jan (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*
Boris Giltburg, *piano* [Artist in Residence]
Bizet - *Carmen Suite* No.1
Rachmaninov - Piano Concerto No.4
Rachmaninov - *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*
R. Strauss - *Der Rosenkavalier* Suite

Wed 27 Jan 2026 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Jac van Steen *conductor*
Carlos Ferreira *clarinet*
Duparc - *Lénore* – Symphonic Poem
Mozart - Clarinet Concerto
Franck - Symphony in D minor

Wed 3 Feb 2027 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 4 Feb (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Chloé Van Soeterstède *conductor*
Eva Gevorgyan *piano*
Nielsen - *Helios Overture*
Grieg - Piano Concerto
Thomas Adès - *Dawn - Chacony for orchestra at any distance*
Rachmaninov - *Symphonic Dances*

Wed 10 Feb 2027 (Poole, Lighthouse)

David Hill *conductor*
Anna Devin *soprano*
Benjamin Hulett *tenor*
Christopher Purves *baritone*
Haydn - *The Creation*

Sat 13 Feb 2027 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Richard Balcombe *conductor*
Katie Birtill *singer*
Kelly Mathieson *singer*
Graham Bickley *singer*
Julie Andrews: *A Celebration*

Wed 17 Feb 2027 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 18 Feb (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Alexandre Bloch *conductor*
David Fray *piano*
Bernstein - Symphony No.2 '*Age of Anxiety*'
Ravel - *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*
Stravinsky - *The Firebird* (1919)

Wed 24 Feb 2027 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 25 Feb (Portsmouth, Guildhall)

Fri 26 Feb (Basingstoke, The Anvil)

Mark Wiggleworth *conductor*
Jesper Svederg *cello*
Butterworth - *A Shropshire Lad. Rhapsody for Orchestra*
Bridge - *Oration - Concerto Elegiaco*
Tchaikovsky - Symphony No.5

Wed 3 Mar 2027 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Kirill Karabits *conductor*
Rihab Chaieb *mezzo soprano*
Khachaturian - *Spartacus Suite*
Berio - Folk Songs
Respighi - *Pines of Rome*

Thu 4 Mar 2027 (Portsmouth, Guildhall)

Sat 6 Mar (Poole, Lighthouse)

Star Wars 50th anniversary
Pete Harrison *conductor*

Wed 10 Mar 2027 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Boris Giltburg, *piano* [Artist in Residence - recital]
Prokofiev - *Visions fugitives*, Op. 22
Schumann - *Carnaval*, Op. 9
Mussorgsky - *Pictures at an Exhibition*

Wed 17 Mar 2027 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*
Nardus Williams *soprano*
Anthony Gregory *tenor*
Kitty Whately *mezzo*
Andrew Foster-Williams *bass*
Bournemouth Symphony Chorus
Beethoven - *Coriolan Overture*
Beethoven - *Cantata on the Death of Emperor Josef II*
Beethoven - Symphony No.3 '*Eroica*'

Thu 18 Mar (Bristol Beacon)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*
Nardus Williams *soprano*
Anthony Gregory *tenor*
Kitty Whately *mezzo*
Andrew Foster-Williams *bass*
Bournemouth Symphony Chorus
Beethoven - *Cantata on the Death of Emperor Josef II*
Beethoven - Symphony No.3 '*Eroica*'

Sun 21 Mar 2027 (Southampton, Mayflower)

David Arnold *conductor*
Laura Tebbutt *singer*
The Best of Bond

Wed 7 Apr 2027 (Exeter, University Great Hall)

Thu 8 Apr (Brighton, Dome)
Star Wars 50th anniversary
Pete Harrison *conductor*

Wed 14 Apr 2027 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Chloé Van Soeterstède *conductor*
Stella Chen *violin*
Lili Boulanger - *D'un Soir Triste*
Barber - Violin Concerto
Dvořák - Symphony No.9

Fri 16 Apr 2027 (Truro, Hall for Cornwall)

Fri 23 Apr (Guildford G Live)

Sat 24 Apr (Poole, Lighthouse)

Tom Fetherstonhaugh *conductor*
Isata Kanneh-Mason *piano*
Bernstein – Candide Overture
Gershwin – Piano Concerto in F
Bernstein – On the Town
Piazzolla – Libertango
Márquez – Danzón No.2
Bernstein – West Side Story: Symphonic Dances

Tue 20 Apr 2027 (The Anvil, Basingstoke)

Chloé Van Soeterstède *conductor*
Nikita Boriso-Glebsky *violin*
Lili Boulanger - *D'un Soir Triste*
Barber - Violin Concerto
Dvořák - Symphony No.9

Thu 22 Apr (Fareham Live)

Tom Fetherstonhaugh *conductor*
Isata Kanneh-Mason *piano*
Bernstein – Candide Overture
Gershwin – Piano Concerto in F
Bernstein – On the Town
Piazzolla – Libertango
Márquez – Danzón No.2

Wed 28 Apr 2027 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thu 29 Apr (Bristol Beacon)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*
Sunwook Kim *piano*
Brahms - Piano Concerto No.2
Thomas Adès - *Three Piece Suite from 'Powder Her Face'* [Celebrated Composer]
Beethoven - Symphony No.4

Wed 5 May 2027 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Thomas Adès *conductor*
Johan Dalene *violin*
Sibelius - *En Saga*
Rautavaara - *Deux Sérénades* with solo violin
Thomas Adès - *Air - Homage to Sibelius* with solo violin [Celebrated Composer]
Sibelius - *Swan of Tuonela*
Sibelius - Symphony No.7

Wed 12 May 2027 (Poole, Lighthouse)

Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*
Nicky Spence *Gerontius*
Katie Bray *Angel*
Marcus Farnsworth *Priest/Angel of Agony*
Bournemouth Symphony Chorus
Elgar - *The Dream of Gerontius*

Sat 15 May (Poole, Lighthouse)

Sun 16 May (Southampton, Mayflower)

Stephen Bell *conductor*
Adam Martin *guitar*
Alex Voysey *guitar*
Emma Kershaw *singer*
Mick Wilson *singer*
Steve Trowell *singer*
Guitar Superheroes

Wed 16 Jun 2027 (Bristol Beacon)

Kirill Karabits *conductor*
Hugo Svedberg *cello*
Khachaturian - *Spartacus Suite*
Tchaikovsky - *Variations on a Rococo Theme*
Respighi - *Pines of Rome*

3. [About Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra](#) | [bsolive.com](#)

Chief Conductor – Mark Wigglesworth
Celebrated Composer – Thomas Adès | Artist-in-Residence – Boris Giltburg
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 – Michal Oren

One of the UK's best-loved orchestras, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) 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 registered 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.

Mark Wigglesworth became the Orchestra's Chief Conductor in 2024, and his opening seasons have 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** alongside **Marin Alsop**, **David Hill MBE**, **Kirill Karabits**, **Andrew Litton** and new Calleva Assistant Conductor, **Michal Oren**.

In 2026/27, the BSO welcomes **Thomas Adès** as its *Celebrated Composer*, in a series that shines a spotlight on new British music. The Orchestra shares eight performances, including one that Adès conducts – and local pupils will interact with his music through further events.

The Orchestra's **two-year Beethoven celebration: Road to Joy** runs from October 2026. Alongside symphonic performances, the series provides three immersive *Beethoven Now* weekends, delving deeper into the enduring legacy of the composer's music and humanity.

The BSO welcomes pianist **Boris Giltburg** as *Artist-in-Residence*, with five performances across the season. Further highlights include debut performances from conductor **Charlotte Corderoy**, pianists **Junyan Chen**, **Eva Gevorgyan**, **Isata Kanneh-Mason**, and violinist **Johan Delane**. The BSO's celebrated **Digital Concert series** continues into its seventh year, with 18 live performances broadcast globally from Poole – this year, supported by **Digital Concert Sponsor, Lark Music**.

Celebrated for its pioneering community-based **BSO Participate** work, the Orchestra brings music into people's lives beyond the concert hall thanks to a network of partnerships spanning health, care and music education; with a unique team of dynamic **BSO Associate** and **Young Associate Musicians** living in the heart of communities across the South West, it delivered more than 58,000 experiences last year. Its creative health programme continues to expand, with regular sessions at **Dorset County Hospital**, **Dorset HealthCare** sites, and **Southampton Hospitals Charity**. Several **Community and Wellbeing Orchestras** support a range of needs across the region from Bodmin, Boscombe and Bristol to Chard, Exeter, Newquay 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, continues to challenge perceptions. The group joins conductors **Tom Fetherstonhaugh** and **Enyi Okpara** in 2026/27.

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.

4. About Lark Music – Digital Concert Sponsor | larkmusic.com

Lark Music, an established brand within Howden, is a specialist music insurance provider, protecting musicians and their instruments for over 35 years with tailored cover and expert support. Whether you play at home, perform on stage or travel the world with your musical instruments, Lark Music's insurance is designed to give you confidence that your instruments are fully protected. From accidental knocks to theft or accidental loss, we cover the risks that matter most to musicians, so you can focus on playing, not worrying.