

PRESS RELEASE

Friday 15 May 2026

BSO BIDS FAREWELL TO ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE RODERICK WILLIAMS AFTER BARITONE'S STUNNING FINAL CONCERTS



Roderick Williams at Lighthouse, Poole [©Mark Allan] and visiting pupils [©BSO]

- **Acclaimed singer bows out after successful year-long association with orchestra**
- **His song recital – *An English Song Winterreise* – now available to watch until 30 May.**
- **Residency has included BSO Participate outreach work with local pupils.**

Acclaimed baritone Roderick Williams has concluded his year-long tenure as Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Artist-in-Residence.

Roddy, who received an OBE in 2017 for services to music and performed at the Coronation of King Charles III in 2023, bowed out after a final performance with the BSO at Lighthouse, Poole this week.

He joined the BSO, Bournemouth Symphony Chorus and soloists soprano Talise Trevigne, mezzo-soprano Anita Monserrat and tenor Joshua Stewart under the command of chief conductor Mark Wigglesworth for *BSO: Lost In Innocence*, this week. The performance included Aaron Copland's 1945 orchestral suite *Appalachian Spring* and Sir Michael Tippett's wartime secular oratorio *A Child of Our Time*.

His recent song recital with pianist Christopher Glynn – which recreates Schubert's famous *Winterreise* song cycle with music written by British composers – wowed audiences at Lighthouse, Poole. It is available to watch online until 30 May.

Roddy, who began his career as a classroom music teacher before taking up singing seriously in his late 20s, has also taken part in BSO Participate events during his residency.

On Tuesday, he visited pupils at **Longfleet CE Primary School**, joining an assembly and sharing in a workshop with pianist Simon Gilliver and music leader Hazel Gould.

Music teacher, Kate Wright, described it: *“The staff and pupils who heard Roddy's singing were spellbound by his beautiful voice, especially those very low notes! We have many young singers and instrumentalists who were inspired by seeing what is possible with dedication and practice. The Year 3 pupils who did the workshop were so excited to share their ideas and perform their own music. The creative juices were definitely flowing and I know that some of them were excited to go home and write another song. These magical moments are the ones that stay with our pupils and have an impact that lasts well beyond the day that they happen, thank you so much!”*

He also joined the BSO Participate team on its regular work with Southampton Hospitals Charity, performing for staff, visitors and patients of all ages.

Roderick followed in the footsteps of previous Artists-in-Residence such as pianist Gabriela Montero, violinist Alena Baeva, and the exceptional German horn player Felix Klieser.

Dougie Scarfe OBE, CEO of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, said: *“Each season the BSO is proud to work with an extraordinarily talented musician as our Artist-in-Residence – and I can honestly say that Roddy has been an absolute star.*

“We were tremendously fortunate to acquire the services of one of the UK’s most sought-after baritones who is constantly in demand worldwide on the concert platform and in recital.

“Roddy’s work with our own talented musicians and out in the community as part of BSO Participate programme has been completely inspirational and we will treasure the memory of his time here.”

Details of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra’s 2026/27 season have now been announced. Highlights include the launch of a **two-year Beethoven series**, the arrival of Grammy-award winning **Thomas Adès** as ‘Celebrated Composer’ and Gramophone award-winning pianist **Boris Giltburg** as Artist-in-Residence – plus, the arrival of new Calleva Assistant Conductor, **Michal Oren**.

Watch Roddy’s *An English Song Winterreise* online before 30 May. General booking for the Orchestra’s new season opens on 27 May. See bsolive.com for full details.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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1. **Further high-resolution images available on request:**

- a) Roddy Williams in performance with Mark Wigglesworth and the BSO ©Mark Allan
- b) Roddy Williams joins local pupils for school assembly ©BSO
- c) BSO Chief Executive Dougie Scarfe ©Corin Messer

2. **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 **University Hospital Southampton**. 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.