

PRESS RELEASE

15 September 2026

People throughout Dorset to experience more live music this autumn as Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra tour reaches new venues



BSO mixed ensemble (C) BSO

- The popular ‘BSO On Your Doorstep’ series visits **Bournemouth’s Arts by the Sea Festival**, plus new venues in **Broadwindsor**, **Gillingham** and **Portesham** in partnership with Artsreach, Dorset’s rural arts charity.
- The series, which takes smaller-scale concerts into rural and community-led venues, ensures more people can access professional live music.
- Across autumn, the music also returns to **Bridport**, **Lytchett Matravers**, **Swanage** and **Sturminster Newton**, with a further performance in Bridport welcoming disabled-led ensemble, BSO Resound.

People throughout Dorset will experience more live music this autumn as smaller ensembles from Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra visit arts venues and community spaces across the county.

Professional musicians from the BSO will play at Bournemouth's popular **Arts by the Sea Festival** this September [Sat 26] with a family-friendly programme celebrating the festival's theme 'Elemental'.

Several themed concerts celebrating different chapters of music - from 'West End to Hollywood' to 'Serenades and Starbursts' - display the skill and virtuosity of the BSO's musicians.

Performances will take place in **Bridport Arts Centre** [11 Sep, 17 Dec, 12 Feb], **The Mowlem, Swanage** [11 Sep], **Arts by the Sea Festival, Bournemouth** [26 Sep], **Lytchett Matravers Village Hall** [13 Nov], **Gillingham Secondary School** [12 Nov], **Broadwindsor Village Hall** [11 Dec], **Portesham Church** [12 Dec], **The Exchange, Sturminster Newton** [24 Jan]. More dates across the South West in the New Year are still to be announced.

The performance at Bridport Arts Centre [17 Dec] features performances from **BSO Resound** - the world's first disabled-led ensemble as part of a professional orchestra's core activities – which formed in 2018.

Head of BSO Participate, Lucy Warren, said, *"It's deeply exciting to take our music to Bournemouth's fantastic Arts by the Sea festival this September, in the heart of the town. Throughout the autumn we're also presenting a selection of chamber-scale ensemble performances right across Dorset – including performances from disabled-led ensemble BSO Resound. Bringing world-class music into communities is at the core of what we do – and we can't wait to see you there!"*

Based at Lighthouse, Poole, the BSO is resident in Bristol, Exeter, Portsmouth, Southampton and Yeovil, and performs throughout the year in towns and villages across the region. In 2024/25, 77% of events toured beyond the BSO's base at Lighthouse, Poole. The BSO's symphonic concert season at Lighthouse, Poole runs from Wednesday 30 September through to spring.

See bsolive.com/whats-on/ for details of all upcoming 'BSO On Your Doorstep' events.

[ENDS]

NOTES TO EDITORS

For more information please contact:

Heidi O'Neill | honeill@bsorchestra.co.uk | 07858365036 or

Claire Rawles | crawles@bsorchestra.co.uk | 07860 776646

1. Event listings – full booking at bsolive.com

Friday 11 September, 7.30pm

Bridport Arts Centre

'Music for Winds' with BSO Wind Octet

Friday 11 September, 7.30pm

The Mowlem, Swanage

'West End to Hollywood' a celebration of the very best music from stage and screen

Saturday 26 September, 12:45pm - 13:45pm

Bournemouth Arts by the Sea Festival

'Elemental': a family friendly elemental journey across our planet

Thursday 12 November 6pm (with a pre-show Q & A with students)

Gillingham Secondary School

'Music for Winds' with a BSO Wind Octet

Friday 13 November, 7.30pm

Lytchett Matravers Village Hall

'Music for Winds' with a BSO Wind Octet

Friday 11 December, 7.30pm

Broadwindsor Village Hall

'Let's Dance' with a BSO Brass Octet

Saturday 12 December, 7.30pm

Portesham Church

'Music for Winds' with a BSO Wind Octet

Thursday 17 December, 7.30pm

Bridport Arts Centre

'Winter Landscapes' with BSO Resound

Saturday 24 January, 2pm

The Exchange, Sturminster Newton

'Dusk to Dawn' family concert

Friday 12 February, 7.30pm

Bridport Arts Centre

'Serenades and Starbursts' with a BSO String Ensemble

2. **High-resolution images available [here](#):**

- a) BSO mixed ensemble © Patrick Baldwin
- b) BSO strings ensemble © Patrick Baldwin
- c) BSO players © Mark Allan
- d) BSO players © Mark Allan

3. **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.**

Chief Conductor **Mark Wigglesworth**'s opening seasons have magnified the BSO's reputation for the highest quality music-making and the Orchestra boasts an enviable list of named conductors, including

Principal Guest Conductor **Chloé Van Soeterstède, 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. It launches a **two-year Beethoven celebration: *Road to Joy*** and welcomes pianist **Boris Giltburg** as *Artist-in-Residence*. Its live broadcast series continues into its seventh 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 – last year creating more than 58,000 experiences, from hospitals and schools to community centres and care homes.

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.

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