PRESS RELEASE
Thursday 12 November 2026

BSO YOUNG ASSOCIATES: LUCY KEELEY AND KAMILLA KOVÁCS NAMED AS NEXT GENERATION COMMUNITY MUSIC LEADERS



Lucy Keeley and Kamilla Kovács ©BSO

- Lucy Keeley and Kamilla Kovács named as **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra**'s next **BSO Young Associates**.
- The programme offers people based in the South West and traditionally underrepresented in the UK's arts workforce* a chance to catapult their career.
- The **8-month bursary-supported** training programme, which is generously supported by **The Calleva Foundation**, runs from this month.
- Launched in 2022, the programme has nurtured **8 emerging leaders to date**, each of whom continues to pursue a freelance portfolio career in music.

Musicians Lucy Keeley and Kamilla Kovács – based in Bristol and south Somerset, respectively – will begin making music in hospitals, schools, community centres and more, when they join Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) as BSO Young Associates this month.

The Young Associates are supported through practical experience, training, and one-to-one mentoring from the Orchestra's award-winning Participate team and its BSO Associate Musicians,

who live and work throughout the region. The two aspiring community music leaders will also work alongside the Orchestra's professional musicians in community settings.

The part-time programme – which runs biennially – is tailored to each Young Associate, who will commit around 10 days each month.

Lucy Keeley is a **Bristol**-based oboe player driven by making music in the community; her experience spans working with prisoners and teaching in both mainstream and SEND contexts. Alongside her studies at the University of Oxford and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Lucy worked with Turtle Key Arts, Sing Inside, and National Children's Orchestra. On becoming a BSO Young Associate, she said: *"I'm excited to develop my own voice in leading workshops having assisted and observed on a variety of projects in recent years."*

Kamilla Kovács, is a bassoon player passionate about music performance, education and cultural management. Based in **Wincanton, Somerset**, she supports a music-making group at the town's Balsam Centre. Kamilla – who trained in Salzburg (Mozarteum University) and Lugano (Conservatory of Southern Switzerland) – has taught bassoon, piano, recorder and music theory, including using the Kodály method. She has also worked with the Dorset Rural Music School and with local SEND pupils. On becoming a BSO Young Associate, she explained she is looking forward to deepening her learning of *"creating and leading music programmes which are both engaging and helpful"*

Offering a platform from which to catapult a career, the bursary-supported training opportunity welcomes people from backgrounds that are traditionally underrepresented in the UK's arts sector, enabling people to self-identify on barriers they have faced to accessing arts opportunities, including rural isolation and people from low-income backgrounds.

All eight alumni from the programme have continued to pursue freelance portfolio careers in music and joining the **BSO Participate Music Leader Network**. The group meets annually for CPD and networking, with several members continuing to work on the Orchestra's projects across the region.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Chief Executive, Dougie Scarfe OBE, said:
"We're thrilled to welcome Lucy and Kamilla to the Orchestra, as they become our fourth cohort of BSO Young Associates. Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra makes music with people in communities throughout a 10,000-square-mile region in the South West of England – each week bringing joy into hospital wards and classrooms, community centres and much more beyond the concert hall. We can't wait for Lucy and Kamilla to join our brilliant team – and we're enormously grateful to The Calleva Foundation for its generous support of the programme from 2026-29."

Stephen and Caroline Butt, Trustees of The Calleva Foundation, said:
"We're delighted to support a programme that nurtures the next generation of outreach specialists, providing life-changing career pathways for young people and helping to create a more diverse musical workforce."

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is a registered charity, which exists to bring music into people's lives. In addition to its world-class concert hall performances, the Orchestra supports people of all ages and backgrounds across creative health and wellbeing, music education and community music-making. Last year, it delivered almost 400 learning and participatory events, in more than 100 venues throughout the South West of England.

The BSO Young Associates programme in 2026-29 is generously funded by The Calleva Foundation, in memory of Jack Butt. To learn more about the programme – and the BSO's work in communities across the South West – visit bsolive.com/Participate

[ENDS]

NOTES TO EDITORS

For more information please contact:
Claire Rawles | crawles@bsorchestra.co.uk | 07860 776646 or Edward Christian-Hare | edward.christian-hare@premiercomms.com | 07870 859633

1. ***Note:** Arts Council of England's *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Review 2018-23* states that disabled people account for 9% of the arts workforce (compared to 22% UK population), and people who identify as Black, Asian or ethnically diverse for 15% (compared to 18% of the UK population): https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/research-and-data/diversity-data/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-review-2018-23; Only 16 percent of the creative workforce are from working class social origins, compared to just under one-third across the whole UK economy (Carey et al, 2020, 2021b) Taken from *Creative Majority Report, APPG* (September 2021): https://www.kcl.ac.uk/cultural/resources/reports/creative-majority-report-v2.pdf

2. **High-resolution images available here:**
   a) Lucy Keeley and Kamilla Kovács ©BSO
   b) BSO Young Associates ©Corin Messer
   c) Dougie Scarfe, BSO Chief Executive ©Corin Messer
   d) Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ©Mark Allan

3. **Alumni of the BSO Young Associates programme:**
   2022/23 – Sehyogue Aulakh and Lila Bhattacherjee
   2023/24 - Àánú Sodipe, Ed Lee and Tammy Sullivan
   2024/25 - Harry Bassett, Sophia Benton and Charlotte Foley

4. **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.