

PRESS RELEASE

24 January 2019



City of Birmingham
Symphony Orchestra

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and local youth homeless charity St Basils mark 10 years of working together to help support the region's young people

Christmas 2018 saw the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO)** and Birmingham-based youth homeless charity **St Basils** mark 10 years in partnership raising funds for the region's young people. Since the partnership began ten years ago, over £30,000 has been raised in support of these two local charities and this year's collection raised just under £6,000.

St Basils has a decade-long tradition of joining the CBSO for fundraising at its annual festive carol concerts at Symphony Hall, which are a Great Birmingham Christmas Tradition, and were presented this year by Classic FM's Alan Titchmarsh and The One Show's Matt Baker.

St Basils staff and volunteers have joined CBSO musicians and volunteers after each concert to raise much-needed funds to support the work that both St Basils and the CBSO - also a registered charity - do with young people in and around the region.

For St Basils this work focuses on young people aged 16-25 with the core aim of preventing youth homelessness. They provide advice and support to 5,000 vulnerable young people per year who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in Birmingham, Solihull, Sandwell, Coventry, Warwickshire and North Worcestershire.

The CBSO promotes an extensive programme of activity for young people that develops and inspires talent, supports the personal development of people with special educational needs and disabilities, and offers health and wellbeing benefits to over 350 young people from across the region every week.

The proceeds collected each year are split equally between St Basils and the CBSO, and as the partnership reaches this milestone both organisations are keen to thank the CBSO's audiences for their generosity.

Barrie Hodge, Head of Fundraising at St Basils, comments:

"We are delighted to celebrate our 10-year partnership with the CBSO. The Christmas Carol concert is always a highlight of the St Basils event calendar and the money raised over the last decade has helped thousands of vulnerable young people start a new independent life, with a much brighter future. We can't thank CBSO and the wonderful supporters enough for all their efforts; it really makes a huge difference to these young lives."

To support the work that St Basils and the CBSO do with young people, visit:

stbasils.org.uk or contact Barrie Hodge, Head of Fundraising and Communications on 0121 776 9618
barrie.hodge@stbasils.org.uk

cbso.co.uk/support or contact Amy Self, Membership & Appeals Manager aself@cbso.co.uk.

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Notes to Editors

About St Basils

St Basils was formed in 1972 in St Basils Church on Heath Mill Lane in Birmingham. It supports over 5,000 16-25 year olds each year who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness across Birmingham, Coventry, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Wyre Forest. At any one time, St Basils has over 450 young people living in our 29 supported accommodation schemes which see over 1,200 youngsters every year.

Registered charity number 1080154

About the CBSO's Learning & Engagement Programme

The CBSO is deeply embedded in the local community through its Learning & Engagement programme, with people engaging over 80,000 times per year with its activities. The programme encompasses concerts for toddlers, families and schools, work in the region's schools, partnerships with 13 West Midlands Music Education Hubs, musical activities supporting the personal development of young people with disabilities, workshops enabling local gifted and talented young instrumentalists to study with CBSO players, MA courses at two local universities, an extensive choral programme, and a growing strand of activity enriching lives of older people with dementia.

Registered charity number 506276