



**City of Birmingham**  
Symphony Orchestra

## **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra to perform at Birmingham's New Street Station as part of eclectic city-wide events programme, supported by HSBC UK**

Members of the public will have an opportunity to become 'maestro of the moment', taking the baton and conducting the renowned Orchestra

As part of their shared commitment to opening up a world of opportunity, the CBSO and HSBC UK are offering members of the public the chance to try their hand at conducting a live 80-piece orchestra as they serenade shoppers and travellers at **free performances at Birmingham's New Street Station** at 4pm and 5.30pm on Friday 15 October.

Moving out of their usual venue, Symphony Hall, and into one of the UK's busiest stations, Birmingham's world-class orchestra will perform an eclectic mix of much-loved music from the theme from Star Wars to classical showstoppers with conductor Michael Seal. A very special 'encore' will see members of the public stepping onto the conductor's podium to take the baton and conduct the renowned orchestra. A call out on CBSO's [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) channels launches on **Monday 11 October** inviting members of the public – of all and any musical abilities – to become CBSO's maestro of the moment and try their hand at conducting.

The event is part of a wide-ranging programme of musical events across the city this autumn which have been made possible by support from the orchestra's new principal Season partner HSBC UK and Arts Council England's Culture Recovery Fund.

CBSO musicians will also perform the first in a new series of informal **Symphonic Sessions** gigs at **Hockley Social Club** – the city's newest neighbourhood hangout, developed by the founders of Digbeth Dining Club – from 6pm on Thursday 21 October. This new collaboration between the venue and the Orchestra will see CBSO musicians performing a mixture of music from contemporary, classical, indie – and everything in between – in relaxed and informal setting. The event will also feature DJ sets from DJ Pritt Kalsi, and a selection of street food from Hockley's most popular vendors.

Younger audiences and families will be catered for too with events such as **CBSO Musical Storytimes** at **Sutton Coldfield Library** on Saturday 16 October. Taking place from 10.30-11.30am and ideal for children aged 2-6 years old, families are warmly invited to join musicians Helen Edgar (CBSO Cellist) and Bryony Morrison (CBSO Violinist) for this free event as they use their instruments to tell the beautiful story of children's book *The Way Back Home* by Oliver Jeffers.

Other CBSO musicians will be out and about across the city including CBSO violinist Kirsty Lovie and viola player Adam Römer who formed the **Lovie-Römer Duo** during the pandemic. Presenting a unique fusion of traditional Scottish and Hungarian music that draws from their own heritage, Kirsty (from Scotland) and Adam (from Hungary) will perform a programme of string duos at the **Spotted Dog in Digbeth** at 4pm on Sunday 17 October.

This autumn over **10,000 local care home residents** will have the opportunity to experience the CBSO for free as DVDs of filmed concerts are delivered as a gift from the orchestra to 400 care homes around the city. Specially programmed by CBSO musicians who have been trained in dementia awareness and have direct experience of working in care settings, these filmed



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concerts enable older people living in care settings anywhere in the UK to have a concert experience from the comfort of their own home.

A number of events will also take place at **Lightwoods Park and House** in Bearwood including **Jazz in the Jungle** and **Oscar at the Opera** on Saturday 30 October featuring live storytelling, performance and children's workshops in a partnership with children's author Joey Walter and illustrator Ning Ning Lee.

Also launched this week the CBSO feature in a brand-new podcast created in partnership with **Sutton Arts**. Created during lockdown as means of engaging with local creatives, the **Sutton Podcast** features five Sutton Coldfield-based five members of the CBSO who were interviewed and commissioned to record four brand new works. The works will be performed by the musicians at an event hosted in partnership with Sutton Arts at **Oikos Café, Erdington** on Friday 15 October from 6.30pm.

HSBC UK has deep roots in the West Midlands, and opened its new head office in the heart of the city centre in July 2018.

**Ian Stuart, Chief Executive of HSBC UK said:** "The CBSO is a keystone of arts and culture in Birmingham and the West Midlands, as well as being one of the world's top orchestras. As Birmingham's growth as an attractive hub for business, culture and people continues, we're delighted to be helping open a world of opportunity and music to people across the region."

Stephen Maddock, Chief Executive of CBSO said: "The CBSO has always belonged to the people of Birmingham and the West Midlands and it always will. We truly believe in the power of live music to enrich people's lives, regardless of age or background and what's especially wonderful about this new partnership with HSBC UK is that it will enable us to do just that. To reach and engage with even more people and to take the Orchestra to new and unexpected places to connect with them."

Notes to Editors

Storytimes at Sutton Coldfield Library on Saturday 16 October is a free event, no pre-booking required, simply turn up on the day. Further details of these events can be found [here](#).

For more information on all other events visit <https://cbsoco.uk/out-and-about>

**For further press information please contact**

Rebecca Driver Media Relations

email: [victoria@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:victoria@rdmr.co.uk) | tel: 07900 183 560 | web: [www.rdmr.co.uk](http://www.rdmr.co.uk)

**About the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO)**

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Under the baton of its Music Director Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) is the flagship of musical life in Birmingham and the West Midlands, and one of the world's great orchestras.

Based in Symphony Hall, Birmingham, in a normal year the orchestra performs over 150 concerts each year in Birmingham, the UK and around the world, playing music that ranges from



## City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

classics to contemporary, film music and even symphonic disco. With a far-reaching community programme and a family of choruses and ensembles, it is involved in every aspect of music-making in the Midlands. But at its centre is a team of 75 superb professional musicians, and a 100-year tradition of making the world's greatest music in the heart of Birmingham.

That local tradition started with the orchestra's very first symphonic concert in 1920 – conducted by Sir Edward Elgar. Ever since then, through war, recessions, social change and civic renewal, the CBSO has been proud to be Birmingham's orchestra. Under principal conductors including Adrian Boult, George Weldon, Andrzej Panufnik and Louis Frémaux, the CBSO won an artistic reputation that spread far beyond the Midlands. But it was when it discovered the young

British conductor Simon Rattle in 1980 that the CBSO became internationally famous – and showed how the arts can help give a new sense of direction to a whole city.

Rattle's successors Sakari Oramo (1998-2008) and Andris Nelsons (2008-15) helped cement that global reputation, and continued to build on the CBSO's tradition of flying the flag for Birmingham. As the only professional symphony orchestra based between Bournemouth and Manchester, the orchestra tours regularly in Britain – and much further afield. The CBSO has travelled to Japan and the United Arab Emirates in previous seasons, and in December 2016 made its debut tour of China. And its recordings continue to win acclaim. In 2008, the CBSO's recording of Saint-Saëns' complete piano concertos was named Best Classical Recording of the last 30 years by Gramophone.

Now, under the dynamic leadership of Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Associate Conductor Michael Seal and Assistant Conductor Jaume Santonja Espinós, the CBSO continues to do what it does best – playing great music for the people of Birmingham and the Midlands.

The CBSO Chorus – a symphonic choir made up of “amateur professionals”, trained by Simon Halsey cbe – is famous in its own right. The CBSO Children's Chorus and Youth Chorus showcase singers as young as six. Through its un auditioned community choir – CBSO SO Vocal in Selly Oak – the CBSO shares its know-how and passion for music with communities throughout the city. The CBSO Youth Orchestra gives that same opportunity to young instrumentalists aged 14-21, offering high-level training to the next generation of orchestral musicians alongside top international conductors and soloists.

These groups are sometimes called the “CBSO family” – over 650 amateur musicians of all ages and backgrounds, who work alongside the orchestra to make and share great music. But the CBSO's tradition of serving the community goes much further. Its Learning and Participation programme touches tens of thousands of lives a year, ranging from workshops in nurseries to projects that energise whole neighbourhoods. And everyone's welcome at CBSO Centre on Berkley Street. As well as being a friendly, stylish performance venue for the lunchtime concert series Centre Stage and contemporary jazz concerts by Jazzlines, the CBSO's rehearsal base is home to Birmingham Contemporary Music Group and Ex Cathedra. Having recently enjoyed its 100th birthday, the CBSO, more than ever, remains the beating heart of musical life in the UK's Second City.



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The CBSO recently announced that Kazuki Yamada has been appointed as its Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor with effect from 1 April 2023.

The positions of Music Director and Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor are generously supported by John Osborn.

Find out more at [cbsoco.uk](https://cbsoco.uk)

**About HSBC UK:**

HSBC UK serves around 15 million customers across the UK, supported by 26,000 colleagues. HSBC UK offers a complete range of retail banking and wealth management to personal and private banking customers, as well as commercial banking for small to medium businesses and large corporates.

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of HSBC, is headquartered in London. HSBC serves customers worldwide from offices in 64 countries and territories in its geographical regions: Europe, Asia, North America, Latin America, and Middle East and North Africa. With assets of US\$2,976bn at 30 June 2021, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.