



City of Birmingham
Symphony Orchestra

THSH
TOWN HALL BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY HALL BIRMINGHAM

PRESS RELEASE

11 May 2018

**Symphony Hall Birmingham and resident orchestra the
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra**

**Proud to welcome the BBC Young Musician 2018 Grand Final on
Sunday 13 May**

The **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO)** and **Town Hall Symphony Hall Birmingham (THSH)** are delighted to be performing in and hosting the **BBC Young Musician 2018 Grand Final** on **Sunday 13 May** at Symphony Hall Birmingham, as the competition celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Mark Wigglesworth will conduct the CBSO in the Final, which begins at 4pm. The Grand Final will also be broadcast on BBC Four at 7pm and on BBC Radio 3 at 7:30pm.

Both the CBSO and THSH have a commitment to supporting young talented artists and regularly work with previous winners, including violinist Nicola Benedetti, BBC Young Musician Ambassador and 2017's THSH Artist-in-Residence. Benedetti will perform with the CBSO and Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla in June 2018, and returns to the city in May 2019 with the internationally acclaimed Scottish Chamber Orchestra for a performance at Symphony Hall.

This year, the most recent winner Sheku Kanneh-Mason recorded his performance of Shostakovich's *Cello Concerto No.1* with the CBSO and Gražinytė-Tyla at Symphony Hall as part of his hit debut album *Inspiration*, which also featured the CBSO Cellos. Sheku will return to make a guest performance at this year's BBC Young Musician Final, in addition to returning to Birmingham in 2019 as part of the Birmingham Classical 18-19 Season.

THSH has hosted previous winners and finalists including Peter Moore, Laura van der Heijden, Martin James Bartlett. The CBSO also regularly works with previous winners including Freddy Kempf, Jennifer Pike, and finalists including Alison Balsom and Benjamin Grosvenor.

Adrian Spilett, who was the first (and to date the only) percussionist to win the title of BBC Young Musician is now the CBSO's Percussion Section Leader.

The TV and radio broadcasts of the Grand Final will also be available to watch and listen again on the BBC iPlayer for 30 days from 13 May.

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Notes to Editors:

About Town Hall & Symphony Hall

Town Hall and Symphony Hall are managed together by Performances Birmingham Limited, a Registered Charity No 1053937. Between them, the two halls present an exciting and varied programme of around 800 concerts and events a year, connecting people of all ages and backgrounds to music from jazz, folk, world, roots and classical, to rock and pop. Over 500,000 people visit Town Hall and Symphony Hall annually, and almost 12,000 young people and 6,000 adults participate in the thriving Education and Community programme.

Town Hall Birmingham re-opened in October 2007 following a £35m renovation funded by Birmingham City Council (£18.3m), Heritage Lottery Fund (£13.7m), European Regional Development Fund (£3m)

The halls are funded by Birmingham City Council and supported using public funding by Arts Council England

About the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO)

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra is one of the world's great orchestras, and the flagship of musical life in Birmingham and the Midlands.

Based at Birmingham's spectacular Symphony Hall, the orchestra and its ensembles give over 150 concerts each year in the UK and worldwide, playing a wide range of music including everything from Wagner operas to world premieres, film music and family concerts. With a far-reaching education and community programme, six choruses and a Youth Orchestra, it is involved with every aspect of music-making in the Midlands. But at its heart is a team of 90 superb professional musicians, and a 95-year tradition of making the world's greatest music.

The orchestra was founded by future Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in 1920, and Elgar conducted its inaugural concert. 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 and Andris Nelsons cemented that global reputation, and continued to build on the CBSO's distinguished tradition as one of the UK's leading musical ambassadors.

Under the artistic leadership of Osborn Music Director Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla the CBSO will continue to do what it does best – playing great music for people in Birmingham and beyond. As it approaches its centenary in 2020, the CBSO remains one of the most vibrant cultural organisations in the UK.

*The position of Music Director is generously supported by John Osborn.

BBC Young Musician

BBC Young Musician has been showcasing the very best British classical music talent for the past 40 years. Since the competition was first held in 1978, it has come to be regarded as the benchmark for outstanding young talent, with a reputation for discovering and championing the stars of the future. The 2016 winner, 17-year-old cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, has gone on to perform at range of high-profile events including at the BBC Proms and the BAFTAs, while other past winners include cellist Natalie Clein, clarinettist and composer Mark Simpson and oboist Nicholas Daniel, and there's an illustrious list of former finalists too: pianists Stephen Hough and Stephen Osborne, violinist Tasmin Little, pianist, conductor and composer Thomas Adès, percussionist Colin Currie and flautist Juliette Bausor – to name a few. BBC Young Musician has been marking its 40th anniversary with a host of special activity including a special documentary, a new series of podcasts presented by 2016 finalist Jess Gillam, an exciting line-up of presenters and judges and the first ever BBC Young Musician Prom. BBC Young Musician is broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and BBC Four.