

## PRESS RELEASE

11 September 2017



City of Birmingham  
Symphony Orchestra

# City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra receives a legacy of £800,000 over 8 years

The **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO)** is delighted to announce it has received a legacy of £800,000 from a generous donor - one of the largest legacy gifts in the organisation's 97-year history.

The legacy was left by a frequent CBSO concert-goer and supporting member who lived in Lichfield. It will support the CBSO's activity in the UK over an eight-year period, meaning that as the CBSO passes its centenary in 2020 he will have helped to ensure the CBSO continues to thrive for music lovers of the future.

CBSO Individual Giving Manager Eve Vines shares the story behind the gift:

*"Our recent £800,000 gift was given by a gentleman who was very special to us, and who first started supporting the Orchestra in memory of his wife. In addition to coming to concerts to hear the full Orchestra perform he really valued the work which CBSO musicians did with young people around the region. I'm quite sure that it was this, together with his friendship with a number of the musicians, that inspired him to leave a legacy."*

Chief Executive Stephen Maddock OBE adds:

*"This important legacy represents a significant contribution to the £15-£20 million we need to raise from the private sector over the next eight years. Support from generous private funders enables us to maintain and build upon the CBSO's world-class artistic standards and the breadth of its work in the local community. Without such support every aspect of our work would be diminished beyond recognition. Gifts from generous individuals, companies and trusts are all part of the mix, and so too are legacies of all sizes. I am always touched and humbled when I learn that someone has chosen to remember us in this way: in doing so they ensure we can continue to offer musical inspiration for generations to come."*

More information about leaving a legacy to the CBSO is available via [cbso.co.uk](http://cbso.co.uk) or by contacting Eve Vines, CBSO Individual Giving Manager, on 0121 616 6541 or at [evines@cbso.co.uk](mailto:evines@cbso.co.uk).

**[www.cbso.co.uk](http://www.cbso.co.uk)**

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **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

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community programme, four 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 97-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.