

**PRESS RELEASE**  
30 October 2017



**City of Birmingham**  
Symphony Orchestra

## **Strictly Come Dancing 2016 champion Ore Oduba to host *A Choral Christmas* with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and CBSO Choruses 19 - 21 December at Symphony Hall**

The **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO)** is delighted to announce that presenter and *Strictly Come Dancing* 2016 champion **Ore Oduba** will host its three *A Choral Christmas* concerts on 19, 20 and 21 December at Symphony Hall, Birmingham.

Ore Oduba, an experienced live host and presenter, became a household name in 2016 demonstrating his showmanship qualities on the *Strictly* floor. An audience of over 13 million watched him and partner Joanne Clifton crowned champions in 2016, the most watched final in the programme's history.

*A Choral Christmas* will feature the full CBSO orchestra with the **CBSO Chorus** and **CBSO Youth Chorus** all conducted by renowned choral director **Simon Halsey CBE**. The other members of the CBSO's family of choirs will also join the seasonal celebrations, with the **CBSO Children's Chorus** performing on 19 and 20 December, and **SO Vocal** on 21 December.

Ore said "*Christmas is one of my favourite times of the year so I'm delighted to be joining the amazing CBSO and choruses for a special festive celebration*"

Seasonal music old and new, carols for the whole family to join in and sing along with, and added celebrity sparkle from the charming Ore Oduba makes *A Choral Christmas* the premier family event in Birmingham for this festive season. Tickets are available for £52, £46, £40, £30.50, £24 and £13 (with £10 tickets available for children aged 17 or under\*) at [www.cbso.co.uk/christmas](http://www.cbso.co.uk/christmas)

*The concert on 19 December has been made possible with generous support from Lord Digby and Lady Patricia Jones of Birmingham*

\*terms and conditions apply.

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

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About Ore Oduba**

On-air, on-screen and on stage, Ore has established himself as a true all-rounder since winning the 14th series of *Strictly Come Dancing*.

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An exciting broadcaster and experienced live host, Ore demonstrated his showmanship qualities on the *Strictly* floor as an audience of over 13 million watched him and partner Joanne Clifton crowned champions in 2016, the most watched final in *Strictly* history.

His popularity amongst audiences was cemented in 2017 when he was welcomed into the family of presenters at *BBC Radio 2*. Ore can currently be heard deputising on *Steve Wright in the Afternoons* or settling listeners into their Sunday nights as he covers for Claudia Winkleman.

Other notable high-profile credits include regular presenting slots on *The One Show* and ITV's *This Morning*. But Ore's dancing shoes are never far away. He continues his work from the Royal Opera House, presenting some of the finest ballet productions live to cinema screens worldwide. And 2018 will see Ore fulfil a dream as host of the *Strictly Come Dancing Live Tour*.

### **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, 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.