



# **CBSO HAND REINS OF FULL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT TO 13 YOUTH AMBASSADORS**

**Youth Takeover – Thursday 9 January, 7:30pm: Symphony Hall, Birmingham**

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) has given 13 Youth Ambassadors the unique opportunity to curate, programme and promote the first evening concert of the orchestra's 2020 centenary year.

For the first time ever, in January, the CBSO will present *CBSO: A Vision of the Future* at Birmingham's Symphony Hall, handing complete control to 13 dynamic Youth Ambassadors, aged between 16 and 21, to run all aspects of the concert, including choosing the music to be performed by the full-sized orchestra conducted by their Assistant Conductor Jaume Santonja Espinós.

The Ambassadors have programmed a concert featuring works by Mason Bates, Debussy, Gershwin, Marquez, Anna Meredith, Piazzolla and Shostakovich. They will also present parts of the concert and give a pre-concert talk bringing to light their experience of taking over a symphony orchestra.

In preparation for the concert, the Ambassadors have been involved in a series of facilitated workshops exploring areas including programming, presentation, marketing and development, as well as discussing repertoire choices and themes with CBSO musicians and working with presenters Tom Redmond and Catherine Arlidge. Supported by strategic members of CBSO staff, the Ambassadors have explored all aspects of creating and running a concert – what makes an effective programme, who they would like their target audience to be, considerations of customer experience and audience journeys, among a host of other areas.

**Stephen Maddock OBE**, Chief Executive of CBSO, says: *'Throughout its 100 years, the CBSO has thrived on the energy, imagination and uncompromising commitment of Birmingham's young people. Through our new Youth Ambassadors programme we want to open our doors, welcome new ideas and harness their skills and passion. This is the first time we have handed over control of a full orchestral concert in this way and I can't wait to see the results!'*

As we celebrate 100 years of the CBSO and look not just to the past, but also to the future, it feels only right that we reflect the energy, imagination and uncompromising commitment of our young people.

The CBSO's new Youth Ambassadors programme is aimed at young people who want to share their curiosity and discoveries around live orchestral music. The one-year volunteer programme coincides with the orchestra's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020 and offers the 13 Youth Ambassadors the opportunity to work creatively, develop a reflective approach, build leadership skills, and develop proficiency in media, communications, advocacy and presenting.

The Ambassadors, who were appointed by the CBSO via a letter of application and informal interview, are provided with tickets to CBSO concerts, offered the chance to meet and interview artists, given work experience opportunities and offered the opportunity to act as an advisory group feeding in to the CBSO's wider engagement strategy.



**CBSO: A Vision of the Future – Thursday 9 January, 7:30pm: Symphony Hall, Birmingham**  
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra  
Jaume Santonja Espinós *conductor*

Full programme:

**Shostakovich** *Jazz Suite (March Lyric Waltz, Little Polka)*

**Marquez** *Danzón No.2*

**Debussy** *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*

**Anna Meredith** *Concerto for Beatboxer and Orchestra*

**Piazzolla** *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires: Winter*

**Gershwin** *Rhapsody in Blue*

**Mason Bates** *Mothership*

This concert has been made possible with generous support from the Rachel Baker Memorial Charity and the CBSO Development Trust's private endowment fund, with additional support from the M K Rose Charitable Trust.

Tickets cost £12 (full price). £6 (students and under 18's) and £10 (18 – 30's not in full time education) and are available from the [CBSO's website](http://www.cbso.co.uk).

**CBSO+ 6pm:** Meet our Youth Ambassadors for a pre-concert talk, as they bring to light what it's like to take over a symphony orchestra!

**For a press release about the CBSO's 19-20 season [click here](#).**  
**Full season details can be found at [www.cbso.co.uk](http://www.cbso.co.uk)**

**For further press information about the CBSO please contact:**

Rebecca Driver Media Relations

web: [www.rdmr.co.uk](http://www.rdmr.co.uk)

email: [maddie@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:maddie@rdmr.co.uk)

tel: 020 3691 7034

## **Notes to Editors**

### **CBSO Youth Ambassadors – biographies**

#### **Sehyogue:**

Hi there - I'm Sehyogue! I'm currently in my first year at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire studying percussion/timpani! I'm hugely passionate about inclusion across the board but particularly within the arts. The CBSO Youth Ambassador role is a great platform to open up conversations surrounding classical music, diversity and inclusion; it's very exciting to be involved with an organisation advocating change!

#### **Ed:**

I'm Ed and I'm a final year music student at the University of Birmingham. I play percussion and I'm a member of the CBSO Youth Orchestra! I wanted to become a Youth Ambassador as it is a really exciting opportunity to help make orchestral music more accessible to new audiences and the role provides amazing insight into what it's like working in an organisation like the CBSO.

#### **Enya:**

My name is Enya and I am currently on a gap year, which I took to prepare for conservatoire auditions (I am hoping to study flute performance). I wanted to become a Youth Ambassador to help make the CBSO more accessible to a wider audience. I also hope to be a flautist in an orchestra, so I wanted to find out more about how a professional orchestra works behind the scenes. Finally, I enjoy event planning, so planning the Youth Takeover concert really appealed to me.



**Katie:**

I'm Katie, I'm in year 12 studying for my A-levels next year. In my spare time I enjoy playing in orchestras and singing in CBSO Youth Chorus. I'm thrilled to be a part of such an exciting project, especially being able to share such new and powerful ideas of what classical music means to us as young people.

**Ellen:**

I'm Ellen and am currently on a gap year before I go on to study acoustical engineering in September 2020. I have been involved with the CBSO for a number of years, singing in both the Children's and Youth Choruses since 2012. I have had some great experiences singing in several wonderful venues and with some well-known conductors. I also play the clarinet and percussion. Away from music I enjoy skiing, athletics and playing hockey. I am excited to be a CBSO Youth Ambassador and hope to encourage young people to enjoy orchestral and classical music as I have over the years.

**Noa:**

I'm Noa and I'm a first-year music student at the University of Birmingham. I am originally from the West Midlands, however, currently live in Dolgellau, Wales. I am a percussionist so like playing and listening to a wide variety of music from jazz to orchestral. I'm not sure what I want to do in the future, other than I want a job related to music. Hopefully, the Youth Ambassador programme will inspire me and help me understand what different job roles are out there for me.

**Caitlin:**

I'm Caitlin and I'm in year 13 currently doing A levels in English literature, history and music which I hope to continue at university. I play clarinet and sing with CBSO Youth Chorus. The Youth Ambassador Programme is something I'm excited to be a part of, and I hope we can open up a new audience to classical music.

**Morgan:**

I'm Morgan. I'm 17 and a trumpet player from Birmingham. I love playing Jazz music and cycling and I hope to go university after Sixth Form and study engineering. My favourite band is Lucky Chops a brass band from New York. I started playing trumpet when I was 7 at primary school. However, each year I see less people playing and learning instruments. I saw the CBSO ambassador as a great way to promote music to get more people involved in all types of music especially orchestral music.

**Chloe:**

I'm Chloe and I'm twenty-two (The eldest member of the crew)  
I'm in my third year  
Of studying here  
And after? Who knows what I'll do!

**Charlie:**

My name's Charlie and I'm a second-year music student at the University of Birmingham. I play percussion and violin and have a big interest in academic music and conducting. I love to listen to pieces and composers I've never heard of before, just like I enjoy drinking different types of peculiar tea. I wanted to be a Youth Ambassador as I would like to see different works brought to the concert hall and I'd love to see more young people going to see classical music. My favourite composer is Shostakovich and I once ate 25 bananas in 5 days.

**Tyriq:**

Hi, my name is Tyriq and I am 20 years old. I am currently studying Music at Huddersfield University, where I play the piano, clarinet and the bassoon. I am also learning how to sing. I love composing music encompassing many genres, as well as performing genres of many styles. Outside of music, I am also studying multiple languages, and when I get time, a photographer, a Youtuber, an actor and keep up my art. The reason I wanted to become a Youth Ambassador is because it parallels with my ambition to bring music to new audiences, and sharing music that I



personally adore with others, whilst collaborating with other young people with that mutual passionate drive, and learning off each other. The whole experience has been fantastic, and I have learnt so much. Therefore, I wait with bubbling excitement for you to see the fruits of our work in this concert!

**Maisy:**

Hello, I'm Maisy! I'm a first-year music student at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. I wanted to be a Youth Ambassador because I really want to see new people experience classical music and change expectations of what concerts are. When I'm not studying, you'll find me writing my blog, taking photos or binge watching Glee.

**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 99-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 continues 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.