



**Chief Conductor** Jiří Bělohlávek  
**Principal Guest Conductor** David Robertson  
**Conductor Laureate** Sir Andrew Davis  
**Artist in Association** Oliver Knussen

The BBC Symphony Orchestra, celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in the current season, has played a central role at the heart of British musical life since its inception in 1930. It provides the backbone of the BBC Proms with around a dozen concerts each year, including the First and Last Nights, and is Associate Orchestra of the Barbican. The BBC SO has a strong commitment to 20th-century and contemporary music – recent years have seen the world premieres of BBC commissions by leading composers such as Elliott Carter, Brian Elias, Vic Hoyland, Matthias Pintscher, Karlheinz Stockhausen and Judith Weir. The 2010-11 season includes commissions and premieres from Unsuk Chin, James Clarke, Marc-André Dalbavie, Peter Eötvös, Brian Ferneyhough, Detlev Glanert, Peter Lieberson and Edwin Roxburgh.

As Associate Orchestra of the Barbican, the BBC Symphony Orchestra performs an annual season of concerts there. Highlights of the 2001-11 season include a birthday concert featuring premieres by Kaija Saariaho and Stephen McNeff, live accompaniment of Alfred Hitchcock's *Blackmail*, music from the Hollywood greats conducted by John Wilson, two concerts conducted by Semyon Bychkov including Rachmaninov's *The Bells*, with the BBC Symphony Chorus, a series of thrilling new concertos and Total Immersion days devoted to the music of Brian Ferneyhough, Unsuk Chin and Peter Eötvös.

The BBC SO works regularly with its Chief Conductor Jiří Bělohlávek, Principal Guest Conductor David Robertson, Conductor Laureate Sir Andrew Davis and Artist in Association, Oliver Knussen. The Orchestra's 2009 performance of Martinů's opera *Juliette* was recently awarded the Royal Philharmonic Society Award for Opera and Music Theatre and a performance of Smetana's comic opera *The Bartered Bride*, conducted by Jiří Bělohlávek will provide one of the highlights of the current season.

Central to the Orchestra's life are studio recordings for BBC Radio 3 at the Orchestra's Maida Vale home, some of which are free for the public to attend. In addition the Orchestra records for several commercial labels. Performing throughout the world, the BBC SO has recently given concerts in China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Germany.

All concerts are broadcast on BBC Radio 3, streamed live online and available for seven days via the BBC iPlayer, and a number are televised, giving the BBC Symphony Orchestra the highest broadcast profile of any UK orchestra.

The Orchestra is committed to innovative education work. Ongoing projects include the Family Music Intro scheme, introducing families to live classical music, BBC SO Student Zone and the highly successful BBC SO Family Orchestra. Total Immersion composer events also provide rich material for education work with wide audiences, and extensive plans are under way in partnership with the Barbican, the Westminster and Hammersmith & Fulham music services, the Royal College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.