

Press Information:

Tuesday 29 August 2017

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's new partnership with Arts in Hospital will bring music to the lives of dementia patients in Dorchester

The BSO's pioneering 'Music for a While' project, which delivers music to people living with dementia in acute hospital settings, has now been confirmed at Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester until August 2019, meaning the Orchestra can share the benefits of music with even more people living with the life-changing condition.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, in partnership with Arts in Hospital, will be lighting up the lives of patients living with dementia as the Orchestra's pioneering 'Music for a While' project has been funded by Dorset County Hospital and BSO Participate. It has been confirmed to take place at Dorset County Hospital for two years from September 2017. The ground-breaking project, which was nominated for the Royal Society for Public Health's 'Health and Wellbeing' Award in 2016 in recognition of its life-changing work, sees BSO Associate Neil Valentine deliver music workshops and performances to patients living with dementia in acute hospital settings.

Initially starting out as a pilot project working with nursing staff and patients at Poole, Portsmouth and Winchester hospitals, led by Arts and Health South West, Music for a While resulted in such a marked improvement to the quality of patients' lives that the BSO now delivers regular sessions at Poole Hospital with the aim to extend the project's reach to additional hospitals across the region. The BSO's new partnership with Arts in Hospital, a small charitable organisation based at the Dorset County Hospital in Dorchester which aims to enhance the healing environment and the wellbeing of patients, will enable the Orchestra to change even more lives through the power of music.

Previous live music projects run by the charity have had a marked effect on the wellbeing of patients:

"I've watched them come alive in front of my eyes, singing, laughing, interacting." **Health Care Assistant, Barnes Ward**

BSO Associate Neil Valentine will visit the hospital and deliver morning and afternoon sessions to the patients in the day rooms on the dementia and orthopaedic wards as well as visiting the bedsides of those patients unable to participate in group sessions, engaging participants through live music and

providing an opportunity for people to rekindle memories through songs. The sessions will also enable Neil to facilitate creative ways of communicating between staff and patients with dementia for whom verbal communication may be limited, as well as involving family and visitors in shared, creative activity on the wards, helping to promote a positive hospital experience and enable them to see their loved ones in a new light or in a way that they may not have seen in a while.

Neil Valentine spoke of his previous experiences of delivering the project: *“I find working with patients, nurses, activity coordinators and visitors in a hospital setting is a real joy. Bringing music, life and a sense of normality to the sterile environment of the hospital wards has been met with warmth and encouragement.”*

A total of 17 Music for a While sessions at Dorset County Hospital have been confirmed so far, with a further 17 sessions planned until August 2019. There are also additional performances by BSO musicians planned to take place at key points throughout the year including Christmas and during Dementia Awareness Week in May 2018. The project aims to: bring about improved health and wellbeing for patients through increased movement, higher nutrition intake, better sleep and reduction of stress; support staff in delivering excellent care; and improve the patient and carer experience of the hospital environment.

Nicky Lucey, Director of Nursing and Quality at Dorset County Hospital said, *“This new collaboration with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra will be fantastic for our patients - live music is a great life enhancer and particularly for those with dementia.”*

James Richards, Consultant Physician and Geriatrician, Clinical Lead for Dementia, Dorset County Hospital said, *“I am a great believer in the benefits of art and music for frail older people and those with dementia – the work that Arts in Hospital will be doing will be greatly appreciated by staff and patients alike.”*

The Music for a While project is delivered by BSO Participate’s Boost strand of work within the Arts and Health sector. A core part of the BSO’s mission is its work beyond the concert hall and through BSO Participate offers a diverse range of people across a myriad of communities the opportunity to experience the power of music. This work is delivered through five distinct and specially tailored strands of work; Boost focuses on health and wellbeing through music and gives those not normally able to engage with the Orchestra the chance to participate, making music accessible to all in the community.

Projects such as Music for a While provide valuable insights, as improving the care of people in hospitals and the community setting who are living with dementia continues to be a national priority. Thanks to partnerships such as this between the BSO and local organisations, the Orchestra can continue to reach more people in the community and use music to change people’s lives for the better.

To find out more about the Music for a While project, please visit BSOlive.com/boost

ENDS

For further information, enquiries & requests please contact: Esme James at
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ejames@bsorchestra.co.uk / 01202 644737/
07860 776646

Notes to Editors:

1. 1 x Image below and online:
https://www.bsolive.com/sitefiles/resources/images/pressreleases/musicforawhileportsmouth_large.jpg
2. Arts in Hospital is a small, charitable organisation based at Dorset County Hospital, aiming to enhance the healing environment, raise patients' spirits and give pleasure to all who are concerned with their welfare. Their core objectives are to support patients and staff through therapeutic art projects that have medical and social benefit, engage the wider community on creative projects based on health and well-being outcomes, programme temporary exhibitions and maintain a permanent collection of life affirming artwork shown throughout the hospital to create a healing environment.
<http://www.dchft.nhs.uk/about/arts/>
3. Dorset County Hospital Charity enhances patient care at Dorset County Hospital providing support that is above and beyond the NHS budget, by raising funds for wonderful facilities and medical equipment. We rely on donations to make a difference and touch the lives of our community.
<http://www.dchft.nhs.uk/charity/>
4. Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is a cultural beacon for the South and South West, existing to give people across the region of over 10,000 square miles the opportunity to experience and participate in great art. As one of the UK's busiest orchestras, the BSO reaches around 5,000 concert-goers per week and is the only UK symphony orchestra not based in a major city.
5. Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits will enter his ninth season at the helm of the BSO in 2017/18 and will be joined by Victor Aviat who continues in his role as the BSO's Leverhulme Young Conductor in Association. The Orchestra is also delighted to welcome Decca recording artist and Principal Clarinet of the Berlin Philharmonic, Andreas Ottensamer, as the BSO's 2017/18 Artist-in-Residence.
6. 2017/18 sees the launch of the BSO's ground-breaking Change Makers project, made possible thanks to a funding award from Arts Council England's Change Makers fund which aims to address the under-representation of black, minority ethnic and disabled people in the arts. The BSO has welcomed disabled conductor James Rose who will undertake an 18-month training placement with the Orchestra and a number of other arts organisations to accelerate his development, experience and confidence as a future artistic leader. To find out more about James and the Change Makers project, please visit BSOlive.com/CHANGE-MAKERS

7. The 2017-18 concert season leads up to the BSO's 125th Anniversary which will celebrate 125 years of bringing the highest quality live music to the South and South West since the Orchestra's founding in Bournemouth by Sir Dan Godfrey in May 1893. To mark this occasion, there will be a weekend of special celebratory concerts and vibrant ensemble performances, Tea Dances and participatory activities in the town in May 2018. The Orchestra will also be touring to several notable venues including the prestigious Royal Concertgebouw, Amsterdam and Dublin's National Concert Hall.
8. As the Orchestra approaches an important milestone in its history, the BSO is launching its 125th Anniversary Appeal to raise the £125,000 needed to purchase a new Steinway Model D Grand Piano. Supported by eminent pianist John Lill CBE, who is the Artist Patron of this Appeal, BSO audiences are invited to support the Appeal by donating 'keys', 'hammers' and 'strings' with gifts of £100 or more, or by making a gift of any size. For more information please visit BSOlive.com/PIANO-APPEAL.
9. To celebrate the remarkable achievements of the Orchestra, a new 160-page hardback book has been published by the Bournemouth Daily Echo, featuring a wealth of photographs from the Daily Echo, Bournemouth Music Library and BSO archives. Current Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits has written the foreword to the book which is available to purchase at concert venues on the night of performances.
10. A core part of the BSO's mission is its work beyond the concert hall. BSO Participate offers a diverse range of people across a myriad of communities the opportunity to experience the power of music, irrespective of circumstance. Through Participate's five specially tailored strands of activity, the BSO organises a variety of activities across the South and South West ranging from inspirational workshops in schools to special performances in care homes. For more information please visit BSOlive.com/BSOPARTICIPATE
11. As a registered arts charity the BSO is increasingly reliant on the support of individuals, charitable trusts and companies. The income earned from ticket sales, commercial activity and grants from public funding sources help the Orchestra greatly and is increasingly invaluable in supporting BSO's on-going mission to enrich and inspire the cultural lives of many.
12. The BSO's Principal Broadcast Partner is BBC Radio 3.
13. The BSO is Classic FM's Orchestra in the South of England.

