



Press Release

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**LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES
2024/25 SEASON**

- **Sir Antonio Pappano's inaugural season as Chief Conductor to include world premiere, survey of British symphonists, operas in concert and collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center with Wynton Marsalis.**
- **Sir Simon Rattle 70th Birthday concerts to feature new Mark-Anthony Turnage concerto for legendary jazz and rock electric guitarist John Scofield.**
 - **Plans unveiled for LSO St Luke's to undergo major development by Levitt Bernstein Architects to provide world-class facilities for education, recording and live performance.**
- **New £2.5-million endowment from Helen Hamlyn Trust to fund composers' scheme for the long term.**

At a press conference today, the London Symphony Orchestra announced the full programme of concerts for the 2024/25 concert season from September 2024 to August 2025. The season is Sir Antonio Pappano's first as the orchestra's new Chief Conductor and includes 51 concerts at the Barbican where the orchestra is in residence – as well as multiple international tours to 27 cities across 10 countries.

SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO

Sir Antonio Pappano inaugurates a new era for the Orchestra with the world premiere of Sir James Macmillan's *Concerto for Orchestra*, a major LSO commission, at the Barbican on 11 September 2024. The MacMillan premiere leads off the thread of British music that runs through Pappano's programmes in his first season, including major symphonies and concertos by Elgar, Holst, Walton, Tippett, Vaughan Williams and Elizabeth Maconchy. As the outgoing Music Director of the Royal Opera, Pappano brings his love of the art form to the Barbican stage with complete concert performances of Puccini's *La rondine* (10, 12 December 2024) and Richard Strauss' *Salome* (11, 13 July 2025). His affinity with vocal music will also be reflected in the work of the Orchestra's own record label, LSO Live, which will mark the beginning of its 25th anniversary year with the release of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* (4 October 2024), recorded live in concert with Pappano earlier this year. A special highlight of the season is a performance of Wynton Marsalis'

Symphony No 4 *The Jungle* that sees the LSO joining forces with Marsalis' Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (15 March 2025).

Sir Antonio leads the LSO on major tours to Japan, Korea and Shanghai in the autumn, and to the US for twelve concerts in February March 2025, concluding with two nights at the Carnegie Hall in New York, the LSO's first visit in over ten years.

Sir Antonio Pappano said, 'I have been conducting the LSO since 1996, and we're embarking on a new chapter together – and it's a gift from heaven. The LSO has an innate energy, an ambition, and a desire to conquer any challenge. Each musician on their own represents excellence, but together the combined efforts of each musician, their emotional and intellectual intelligence, is extraordinary. I have a lot of threads that are pulling at me as a conductor. I was born in England, grew up here until I was 13, moved to the States, have Italian heritage, studied French, learned German, and have been in the opera field for many years. I hope the Orchestra will enjoy exploring with me the music I really love.'

SIR SIMON RATTLE 70th BIRTHDAY CONCERTS

The London Symphony Orchestra celebrates its Conductor Emeritus Sir Simon Rattle's 70th birthday with two concerts in January 2025. On 9 January, Rattle is joined by LSO Associate Artist Barbara Hannigan for the world premiere of George Benjamin's Interludes and Aria from the composer's opera *Lessons in Love and Violence*. On 12 January, Rattle will be joined by the legendary American jazz/rock/funk electric guitarist John Scofield in a new guitar concerto by Mark-Anthony Turnage.

Sir Simon Rattle said, 'George Benjamin said he wanted to write something for my 70th birthday. The work will be a version of part of his opera *Lesson in Love and Violence*, a little journey for the orchestra and Barbara Hanigan, one of our greatest singers. What do you put with Mark-Anthony Turnage's new guitar concerto? Knowing that Mark's piece would be very jazzy and very rhythmic, I felt that the extraordinary serenity of the Vaughan Williams would sit well with it, and Tippett's *Ritual Dances* from *The Midsummer Marriage* is one of the great British scores, a virtuoso piece.'

PIERRE BOULEZ 100

LSO Principal Guest Conductor François-Xavier Roth will spearhead the LSO's series of events and concerts celebrating the legacy of the composer and conductor Pierre Boulez, with performances of chamber and symphonic music and an afternoon of talks and insights at Milton Court (26, 27 January 2025). At the heart of the concert on 26 January are three world premieres of LSO commissions by composers Olga Neuwirth, Lara Agar and Rafael Marino Arcaro.

STARS & GUESTS

Joining the LSO's family of conductors (Pappano, Rattle, Roth, Hannigan as well as Principal Guest Conductor Gianandrea Noseda, Conductor Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas and Associate Artist André J Thomas), a starry roster of conductors for the new season includes Daniele Rustioni (7 November 2024), Klaus Mäkelä (10 November 2024), Gustavo Dudamel (14 May 2025), and Susanna Mälkki (18 May 2025).

Leading soloists performing with the LSO include violinists Lisa Batiashvili (13 April, 22, 25 May 2025), Nicola Benedetti (3 April 2025), Isabelle Faust (31 October 2024), Vilde Frang (12 September 2024), Janine Jansen (9 February 2025), Leila Josefowicz (18 May 2025), pianists Alice Sara Ott (10 April 2025), Daniil Trifonov (2 February 2025), Yuja Wang (15, 19 September 2024) and sopranos Asmik Grigorian (11, 13 July 2025), Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha (9 February 2025), and Nadine Sierra (10, 12 December 2024).

Full season brochure available here: <https://www.lso.co.uk/2024-25-season-brochure/>

Photographs <https://bit.ly/Pappanophotos>

£8 MILLION PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LSO ST LUKE'S

Plans were unveiled today for a proposed development of LSO St Luke's in East London, building on its 20-year history as a major centre for recording, live performance and the London Symphony Orchestra's renowned education programmes.

The new development will enable advanced sound and vision recording facilities, reflecting a revolution in recording technology since LSO St Luke's first opened 20 years ago. New spaces will be opened up for the LSO's comprehensive education and community programmes. Alongside these the unique space of the concert hall will be upgraded with advanced sound control and lighting. Levitt Bernstein, architects of the award-winning transformation of St Luke's church in 2003, will carry out the new work, which will begin in early 2025.

Commenting on the plans today, **Kathryn McDowell, Managing Director of the London Symphony Orchestra**, said: 'This investment reflects our determination to maintain our world leading position in every area of our work, making a contribution to London as a global centre for the music industry. Evolving the technological capabilities of LSO St Luke's means this uniquely multipurpose building can transition effortlessly between music making, learning and community initiatives, digital, filming and recording projects to a creative laboratory for artist and composer development, orchestral or chamber rehearsals and concerts.'

£2.5 MILLION HELEN HAMLYN ENDOWMENT

The £2.5 million LSO Helen Hamlyn Endowment for early career composers was announced today. The endowment will sustain and develop the LSO Panufnik Composers Scheme and will be renamed the LSO Helen Hamlyn Panufnik Scheme. Founded in 2005 the scheme has allowed the LSO to identify and support the next generation of professional composers to write for full orchestra, feeding directly into the LSO's artistic strategy to offer major symphonic commissions to emerging composers, increasing diversity in classical music, and particularly encouraging those who have specialisms in other music genres such as jazz, electronic and non-western music.

Kathryn McDowell, Managing Director of the London Symphony Orchestra, added: 'The Panufnik Composers Scheme is one of the triumphs of the LSO's last 20 years and to see it endowed for the future in this way is incredibly generous of Lady Hamlyn and sets an

example that we hope other philanthropists will follow in securing the future of specific artistic initiatives.'

Lady Hamlyn CBE, Chair of Helen Hamlyn Trust, said: 'It is an honour for my trust to endow this important scheme with LSO which has firmly established an international reputation as the most prestigious development programme for early career composers.'

Press Enquiries:

Chris Millard, London Symphony Orchestra
chris.millard@lso.co.uk +44 (0) 7545 502226

Or

Dennis Chang/Jane Quinn, Bolton & Quinn,
dennis@boltonquinn.com +44 (0) 20 7221 5000

NOTES TO EDITORS

London Symphony Orchestra

The London Symphony Orchestra, established in 1904 is the oldest of London's symphony orchestras. It made its first British tour in 1905, conducted by Sir Edward Elgar. Today it is ranked among the world's top orchestras, with a family of artists that includes Chief Conductor Sir Antonio Pappano, Conductor Emeritus Sir Simon Rattle, Principal Guest Conductors Gianandrea Noseda and François-Xavier Roth, Conductor Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas and Associate Artists Barbara Hannigan and André J Thomas. The LSO is Resident Orchestra at the Barbican in the City of London, and reaches international audiences through touring and artistic residencies, and through digital partnerships and an extensive programme of live-streamed and on-demand online broadcasts.

Through a world-leading learning and community programme, LSO Discovery, the LSO connects people from all walks of life to the power of great music. LSO musicians are at the heart of this unique programme, leading workshops, mentoring bright young talent, performing at free concerts for the local community and using music to support neurodiverse adults. LSO musicians also visit children's hospitals and lead training programmes for teachers. In 1999, the LSO formed its own recording label, LSO Live. It has become one of the world's most talked-about classical labels and has over 200 recordings in the catalogue so far. The LSO is a leading orchestra for film and uses streaming services to reach a worldwide online audience totalling millions every month. Through inspiring music, learning programmes and technological innovations, the LSO's reach extends far beyond the concert hall.

LSO St Luke's

Designed by the celebrated English Baroque architect Nicholas Hawksmoor and now listed at Grade I, LSO St Luke's on Old Street, London was brought back from the brink of collapse 20 years ago, reincarnated as the LSO's music education centre and performance venue.

The opening of LSO St Luke's heralded a new era for the LSO and unlocked growth across its entire programme. LSO St Luke's provides essential space for the full orchestra to rehearse and record, supporting its ongoing residency at the Barbican Centre as well as its activity at venues across the UK and overseas. Meanwhile, the various purpose-built spaces for music education and creative learning have enabled LSO Discovery to emerge as a sector leader in arts-based learning and engagement.

LSO Discovery engages over 60,000 people each year in a thriving, year-round programme that encompasses early years workshops, youth choirs, community music groups, music training for teachers, and support for young talent and early career composers. LSO St Luke's is the home for projects involving young people from local schools and communities as well as those from across London and beyond. Here, we have shown how we can deliver and sustain a learning and engagement programme that mirrors the ambition and excellence of this world-leading orchestra.

Recent recordings at LSO St Luke's include:

- Krystian Zimerman's retrospective of *Beethoven Piano Concertos*, both recorded and filmed for Deutsche Grammophon.
- Amanda Lee Falkenberg's *Moons Symphony* (which involved members of NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab and astronaut Nicole Stott participating at the sessions).
- Lorne Balfe's music for the Netflix series *Life On Our Planet* narrated by Morgan Freeman.
- Eva Cassidy's posthumous orchestral album *I Can Only Be Me*, subsequently also involving music video filming for the *Time After Time* single.
- *A New Dawn*, a bespoke project for the record label Platoon which formed part of the launch of Apple Music Classical (comprising bespoke-filmed performances of Stravinsky, Boulanger and Chevalier de Saint-Georges, conducted by Jonathon Heyward and featuring the violinist Francesca Degó).

LSO St Luke's 20-year history in the musical life of London also includes hosting performances and recordings with artists such as David Byrne, Bruce Springsteen, Annie Lennox, Bryan Ferry, Paul Simon and Elton John.

LSO Panufnik Composer Scheme

The Panufnik Composers Scheme offers six early-career composers each year the opportunity to write for a full symphony orchestra. The Scheme is guided by renowned composers Colin Matthews, with support from Christian Mason. Together with additional tailored support, the scheme enables composers to experiment with orchestral writing skills through developing a three-minute composition over 14 months. Collaborative relationships are developed with LSO players and the resulting compositions are performed and discussed by the LSO and its Principal Guest Conductor, François-Xavier Roth, in a public workshop rehearsal at the culmination of the scheme. Following this, two of the composers will receive a commission from the LSO which will be premiered during the Orchestra's London season of concerts at the Barbican.

Helen Hamlyn Trust

The Helen Hamlyn Trust is an independent grant-making Trust. The trust initiates medium and long-term major projects linked to the shared interests of Lady Hamlyn and her late husband Lord Hamlyn. Its core ethos is to develop innovative projects, which aim to effect lasting change, improve quality of life and create opportunity for the benefit of the public.

The Trust's grant-making is in the fields of medicine, arts and culture, education and welfare, healthy ageing, international humanitarian affairs and heritage and conservation in India. Small grants are made to local and regional charities up to £10,000. The Trust develops lasting relationships with leading organisations and individuals to enable new areas of work by creating connections between organisations and introducing new ideas.

Since it was founded in 2001, among others, the Trust has initiated major projects with the following organisations: Royal College of Art, Imperial College, London, Royal Opera House, Garsington Opera, Moorfields Eye Charity, The University of Oxford, Bodleian Libraries, Institute of Education at UCL's Institute of Education, Cini Foundation Venice, The British Library, Fordham University New York, INTAC and Mehrangarh Museum Trust, Rajasthan.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation has made a number of grants to support the Trust's work. The Trust's activities fall within the mission and broad objectives of the Foundation.