



London Symphony Orchestra  
Barbican Centre  
London EC2Y 8DS

lso.co.uk

Patron  
His Majesty The King

Chief Conductor  
Sir Antonio Pappano

Conductor Emeritus  
Sir Simon Rattle OM CBE

Principal Guest Conductors  
Gianandrea Noseda  
François-Xavier Roth

Conductor Laureate  
Michael Tilson Thomas

Associate Artists  
Barbara Hannigan  
André J Thomas

Managing Director  
Dame Kathryn McDowell DBE DL

September 2024

### Biography of Kathryn McDowell DBE DL

Kathryn McDowell was brought up in Northern Ireland and read Music at Edinburgh University. After a post-graduate course in teacher training in Belfast, she spent a year in Vienna as a volunteer working with political refugees in a UN camp, developing a programme of arts & sports.

In the mid-eighties Kathryn became one of the first education and community managers with orchestras, creating an extensive programme with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and leading the ABO's first national education project. She also worked with Welsh National Opera and the Ulster Orchestra, before becoming Music Director of the Arts Council of England in the nineties. Since then, she led the bid for the creation of the Wales Millennium Centre and directed the City of London Festival.

As Managing Director of the London Symphony Orchestra since 2005, Kathryn has built on the orchestra's reputation by enriching the artistic programme with outstanding artists, including the appointments of Sir Simon Rattle and Sir Antonio Pappano; extending its profile internationally through partnerships in Europe, Latin America, Asia and Australasia; developing its recording label LSO Live into the most successful orchestra-owned label in the world; deepening its Discovery programme at LSO St Luke's as a global leader in the field of Education and Community work; and building a more sustainable financial model. She also played a sector leadership role during the recent pandemic.

Kathryn is Chair of the London Lieutenancy Council for Cultural Heritage whose programmes seek to build bridges across London's most deprived communities through cultural activities; and she is a member of the St. Paul's Cathedral Council. She was Chair of the Association of British Orchestras (2014-2017); Chair of the ABO's Sustainable Touring Review (2007-2010); Chair of the Family Friendly Arts Campaign (2011-2015); a Trustee of the Leeds International Piano Competition (2016-2022); a Trustee of the Royal Philharmonic Society (1999-2006); and a Governor of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (2007-2016).

Kathryn holds honorary awards from Trinity College of Music, the Royal College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London in 2009, awarded a CBE in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours, and in 2017 she was made Musician of the Year by the ISM and awarded Freeman (by Special Nomination) of the City of London. She was awarded a Damehood in the King's first Birthday Honours list in June 2023.