



London Symphony Orchestra – Full Biography, 2025/26

The London Symphony Orchestra believes that extraordinary music should be available to everyone, everywhere – from orchestral fans in the concert hall to first-time listeners all over the world.

The LSO was established in 1904 as one of the first orchestras shaped by its musicians. Since then, generations of remarkable talents have built the LSO's reputation for quality, daring, ambition and a commitment to sharing the joy of music with everyone. Today, the LSO is ranked among the world's top orchestras, reaching tens of thousands of people in London, more on stages around the world, and millions through streaming, downloads, radio and television.

As Resident Orchestra at the Barbican since the Centre opened in 1982, the LSO performs some 70 concerts there every year with its family of artists: Chief Conductor Sir Antonio Pappano, Conductor Emeritus Sir Simon Rattle, Principal Guest Conductor Gianandrea Noseda, and Associate Artists Barbara Hannigan and André J Thomas. The LSO has major artistic residencies in Paris, Tokyo and at the Aix-en-Provence Festival, and tours regularly across Asia and the US.

Through LSO Discovery, the LSO's learning and community programme, 60,000 people each year experience the transformative power of music, in person, on tour and online. The Orchestra's musicians are at the heart of this unique programme, leading workshops, mentoring bright young talent, working with emerging composers, visiting children's hospitals, performing at free concerts for the local community and using music to support neurodiverse adults. Concerts for schools and families introduce children to music and the instruments of the Orchestra, with an ever-growing range of digital resources and training programmes supporting teachers in the classroom.

The ambition of LSO Discovery is to share inspiring, inclusive opportunities with performers, creators and listeners of all ages. The home of much of this work is LSO St Luke's, the LSO's venue on Old Street. In late 2025, following a programme of improvements, the LSO reopened the venue's facilities with new state-of-the-art recording facilities, enhanced acoustics, and new flexible spaces for LSO Discovery activities.

The LSO's record label LSO Live celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2024/25, and is a leader among orchestra-owned labels, bringing to life the excitement of a live performance. The catalogue of over 200 acclaimed recordings reflects the artistic priorities of the Orchestra – from popular new releases, such as Janáček's *Katya Kabanova* with Sir Simon Rattle, to favourites like Vaughan Williams' Symphonies with Sir Antonio Pappano and Verdi's *Requiem* with Gianandrea Noseda.

Throughout its history, LSO Live has always been at the forefront of digital recording, sharing the LSO's performances with millions of people around the world every month through streaming services, digital partnerships and an extensive programme of live-streamed and on-demand online broadcasts.

As a leading orchestra for film, the Orchestra has entertained millions with its recordings of classic scores. From epic film scores like *Star Wars* and an appearance in the Oscar-nominated film

Maestro, to the trailblazing video game franchise *Final Fantasy*, the LSO's collaborations have taken the Orchestra's music-making out of the concert hall and reached new communities of listeners.

Through inspiring music, learning programmes and digital innovations, the LSO's reach extends far beyond the concert hall. And thanks to the generous support of The City of London Corporation, Arts Council England, corporate supporters, trusts and foundations, and individual donors, the LSO is able to continue sharing extraordinary music with as many people as possible, across London, and the world.

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