



London Symphony Orchestra – Short Biography

The London Symphony Orchestra believes that extraordinary music is for everyone, everywhere. It's a belief rooted in creativity, collaboration and determination – values that have shaped the LSO since 1904, when a group of musicians set out to create and run an orchestra of their own.

Since then, generations of remarkable talents have built the LSO's world-renowned reputation for excellence, innovation and sharing the joy of music. The Orchestra performs a wide-ranging repertoire in front of nearly 200,000 people every year, commissions composers to push new boundaries, and connects with millions more online through creative collaborations, and education and community programmes.

In London, the LSO has been the Resident Orchestra at the Barbican since its opening, performing around 70 concerts each year. These performances feature the LSO's internationally recognised 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. Further afield, major residencies and tours take the Orchestra to audiences around the world.

LSO Discovery, the Orchestra's education and community programme, is about changing lives through music. Each year, the LSO connects with more than 60,000 people through workshops, events and performances – opening doors for performers and communities from every background. LSO musicians are at the heart of the programme. Alongside performing, they lead workshops, mentor emerging instrumentalists, composers and conductors, and shape the programme, sharing their expertise. Much of this happens at LSO St Luke's, the LSO's venue and LSO Discovery's home on London's Old Street – an open, welcoming space where anyone can experience live music and get involved.

The LSO's record company, LSO Live, is one of the largest independent classical labels. With over 200 recordings – including Grammy-winning and critically acclaimed albums – it combines a musician-led approach with digital innovation. These performances reach millions of people every month through streaming, radio and on-demand services.

For over a century, the LSO has been the orchestral power behind moments that define global culture. We've recorded music for iconic films, video games, theme parks – and albums in almost every genre, including Rosalía's *Lux*, RAYE's *This Music May Contain Hope*, and the Floating Points and Pharoah Sanders album *Promises*.

The LSO wants to continue to inspire, connect and belong to everyone – now and for generations to come. We're able to keep sharing extraordinary music with the world thanks to the generosity of our supporters: the City of London Corporation, Arts Council England, our corporate supporters, trusts and foundations, and individual donors.

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