

Media Information
July 1, 2021

Sir Simon Rattle presents BMW CLASSICS 2021.

A free summer concert in Trafalgar Square featuring the next generation of music stars.

Munich/ London. A giant temporary stage in Trafalgar Square will host Sir Simon Rattle and the London Symphony Orchestra with young musicians from the pioneering LSO East London Academy and 14-year-old violinist Leia Zhu for the free BMW CLASSICS concert on **Sunday 15 August 2021 at 6.30pm.**

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the partnership between BMW and the London Symphony Orchestra, and the beginning of a further three-year partnership bringing access to world leading music to everyone in one of London's most iconic public spaces. The audience in Trafalgar Square will be joined by thousands more watching the live stream on YouTube bringing music lovers across the globe together.

Sir Simon Rattle will take to the stage to conduct musicians of all ages with the London Symphony Orchestra, alongside 20 young musicians from the LSO East London Academy and British-Chinese teenage violin prodigy Leia Zhu, guest soloist for Saint-Saëns' great violin showpiece "Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso".

The programme features music on a theme of dance and ballet with Dvořák's "Slavonic Dances", and Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" in addition to the first live performance of **Ayanna Witter-Johnson's** "DreamCity".

Commenting today, **Sir Simon Rattle** said, "This year will be extra special. 2020's concert was a casualty of the pandemic and we have shifted our date to August in the hope that social distancing guidelines will have eased some more so we can gather together as an orchestra and with a crowd and have a great musical summer party. I am delighted that the musicians from the LSO East London Academy are joining us on stage, along with the soaring talent that is Leia Zhu. These young people are the future and it is awe-inspiring to see their talent develop, and share their gifts with the crowd in Trafalgar Square and on YouTube. I am truly grateful to BMW and Sadiq Khan as Mayor for London for making this possible."

The BMW CLASSICS programme is staged as part of the Mayor of London's 'Let's Do London' campaign, showcasing London as a world class creative capital. The biggest domestic tourism campaign the capital has ever seen is encouraging Londoners and visitors to come back to the city and take advantage of London's public spaces and cultural riches.

Dr. Nicolas Peter, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG: "I am absolutely delighted that our successful partnership of the London Symphony Orchestra and BMW will be extended for another three years. Our commitment in the field of classical music is an integral part of our 50-year long worldwide cultural engagement. I am very much looking forward to experiencing the open-air concert again and seeing Sir Simon Rattle and all the musicians back on stage."

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"I'm delighted that Sir Simon Rattle and the London Symphony Orchestra will return to Trafalgar Square this August to put on a free concert alongside young London musicians. Outdoor classical concerts are a great way to enjoy music, and this performance will be a real treat. It's a highlight of my Let's Do London domestic tourism campaign, which is welcoming people back to safely enjoy the amazing culture on offer in London", said **the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan**.

Composer Ayanna Witter-Johnson: "'DreamCity' was a fantastic collaborative project for me; it was a total joy working with these incredibly talented and dedicated young musicians from East London. Initially conceived as a short film project, I am thrilled that the LSO have decided to give the piece another life and that the young musicians alongside the LSO will be giving 'DreamCity' its very first live performance."

BMW CLASSICS

London Symphony Orchestra
Sunday 15 August 2021 at 6.30pm
Trafalgar Square, London

Featuring music from Dvořák's "Slavonic Dances", Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker", Saint-Saëns's "Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso" and the first live performance of "DreamCity" by Ayanna Witter-Johnson.

For the audiences around the world, the concert will be available to watch on the [YouTube channel](#) of the London Symphony Orchestra.

For further information please refer to the website www.lso.co.uk/bmw-classics.
For press material, please visit www.lso.co.uk/more/press.html.

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About the London Symphony Orchestra

The London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) was established in 1904 and has a unique ethos. As a musical collective, it is built on artistic ownership and partnership. With an inimitable signature sound, the LSO's mission is to bring the greatest music to the greatest number of people. The LSO has been the only Resident Orchestra at the Barbican Centre in the City of London since it opened in 1982, giving 70 symphonic concerts there every year. The Orchestra works with a family of artists that includes some of the world's greatest conductors – Sir Simon Rattle as Music Director, Gianandrea Noseda and François-Xavier Roth as Principal Guest Conductors, and Michael Tilson Thomas as Conductor Laureate.

Through LSO Discovery, it is a pioneer of music education, offering musical experiences to 60,000 people every year and over 100 live events at its music education centre LSO St Luke's on Old Street. With the formation of its own record label LSO Live in 1999 the LSO pioneered a revolution in recording live orchestral music. The LSO strives to embrace new digital technologies – having successfully moved into digital film, Blu-Ray Audio, downloads, streaming and virtual reality – and it continues to innovate with platforms such as LSO Play, a web-based video player that allows people to observe the Orchestra from different angles. The LSO is also a highly successful creative enterprise, with 80% of all funding self-generated.

www.lso.co.uk

About LSO East London Academy

Launched in 2019 by Sir Simon Rattle and delivered in partnership with 10 East London Music Education Hubs as part of LSO On Track, the LSO East London Academy aims to identify and develop the potential of young East Londoners between the ages of 11 and 18. Through the provision of free, inspirational coaching delivered by world-class musicians from the London Symphony Orchestra, the Academy will offer high-level training and mentoring to young musicians who show exceptional promise, accelerating their instrumental learning, confidence and aspirations.

The LSO East London Academy aims to represent the diversity of east London, particularly encouraging young musicians from backgrounds currently under-represented in professional orchestras to take part and continue their instrumental learning, including those that experience financial, cultural and practical barriers – a step towards facilitating wider diversification of the professional classical music sector.

Celebrating 50 years of BMW Group Cultural Engagement

State Opera for all Gerhard Richter **CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP** Kochi-Muziris Biennale
BMW Art Cars Berlin Biennale Ólafur Eliasson Art Basel Max Hooper Schneider
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Garage Museum of Contemporary Art Paris Photo **SUSTAINABILITY** Leelee Chan Art Dubai
Teatro alla Scala BMW Classics Jenny Holzer BMW Art Guide by Independent Collectors

Why culture? Why not! Culture is knowledge, a sanctuary of beauty and depth, of meaning and peace. An inspiring escape. Tranquil at best, even unsettling sometimes. As corporate citizen, the BMW Group takes social responsibility seriously, as part of which it has been involved in hundreds of cultural initiatives world-wide for half a century, both in the arts, music & sound, architecture as well as in design. As a long-term partner, creative freedom is key – and as essential for groundbreaking works as it is for major innovations within a business enterprise like ours.

Further information: www.bmwgroup.com/culture and www.bmwgroup.com/overview

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@bmwgroupculture
#BMWGroupCulture**The BMW Group**

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises 31 production and assembly facilities in 15 countries; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2020, the BMW Group sold over 2.3 million passenger vehicles and more than 169,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2020 was € 5.222 billion on revenues amounting to € 98.990 billion. As of 31 December 2020, the BMW Group had a workforce of 120,726 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company set the course for the future at an early stage and consistently makes sustainability and efficient resource management central to its strategic direction, from the supply chain through production to the end of the use phase of all products.

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