

Media information  
25 March 2025

## **BMW Group and London Symphony Orchestra announce BMW Classics in Trafalgar Square on 15 June 2025.**

Free open-air concert can be enjoyed from selected BMW models for the first time this year.

**London/Munich.** BMW Group and the London Symphony Orchestra present the 13th edition of BMW Classics in London's renowned Trafalgar Square on Sunday 15 June at 5pm. The concert highlights the continued partnership between the BMW Group and the London Symphony Orchestra, which since 2012 has brought superlative live orchestral music to audiences in one of the world's most iconic public spaces and to tens of thousands more around the globe watching on YouTube. From this year, the concert and a selection of previous LSO concerts can also be streamed in selected BMW models.

The BMW Classics 2025 concert is conducted by new LSO Chief Conductor Sir Antonio Pappano for the first time, and the programme celebrates his Italian heritage with the prerequisite passion and soaring melodies from some of the great Italian composers for opera and orchestra. The concert will open with the spirited overture to **Rossini's** final Italian opera "Semiramide", before Sir Antonio, renowned throughout the world as one of the great conductors of **Puccini's** operas will lead the orchestra with one of the composer's early works for orchestra, "Capriccio sinfonico".

For the central section of the concert, the LSO play the world premiere of **Isabella Gellis'** new work "Opera for Orchestra", specially commissioned for this occasion and continuing the exploration of operatic repertoire. Her piece, written for a mixed-ability orchestra, brings together LSO and Guildhall School of Music & Drama musicians with 55 young musicians from east London as part of the LSO Discovery programmes.

For the final section of the concert, the Orchestra will perform the rousing Grand March from **Verdi's** opera "Aida", and **Victor de Sabata's** exuberant symphonic poem "Juventus" (Youth).

In a new initiative starting this year, BMW drivers will also be able to stream the concert and a selection of previous LSO concerts from the comfort of their parked cars, via a dedicated app on the in-car entertainment systems of selected models. The content is made available via the Video App (DTS AutoStage Video Service Powered by TiVo™) in the latest infotainment systems of BMW and MINI\*. The Video App brings together a wealth of video content from a wide range of providers, including news and live or on-demand shows. A number of streaming

Media information

Date 25 March 2025

Subject BMW Group and London Symphony Orchestra announce BMW Classics in Trafalgar Square on 15 June 2025.

Page 2

services are available internationally, including Joyn, Pluto TV, Bloomberg, TED, Yahoo! and Chili. These are accompanied by market-specific streaming services.

Commenting on this year's concert, **Dame Kathryn McDowell, Managing Director of the LSO** said, "A big welcome to our new Chief Conductor Sir Antonio Pappano who conducts and presents his first BMW Classics concert this year, which is always a highlight of the Orchestra's London Season and an important fixture in London's summer calendar of music events. On behalf of the LSO and our audiences both in Trafalgar Square and online, a big thank you to our esteemed partner BMW, and the Mayor for London for making this possible."

**Ms Ilka Horstmeier, Board Member for Human Resources and Real Estate at BMW Group:** "We are very pleased to return to Trafalgar Square for BMW Classics, and to welcome Sir Antonio Pappano to conduct the concert for the first time this year. It is wonderful to celebrate the joy of classical music with so many people in the heart of London. BMW's global commitment to music and the arts has inspired people around the world for more than half a century. It is an honor for us to join the renowned London Symphony Orchestra on one of the most famous public stages in the world."

**The Mayor of London, Mr Sadiq Khan:** "The London Symphony Orchestra's free performances in Trafalgar Square are a highlight of our cultural calendar. The BMW Classics are a unique chance for Londoners and visitors to enjoy world class classical music in the heart of our capital for free. It is also an incredible opportunity for young musicians to perform alongside this hugely talented orchestra, as we work to build a better London for everyone."

**Composer, Ms Isabella Gellis:** "I am grateful to the London Symphony Orchestra for commissioning this piece, and I am doubly thrilled that for its premiere the LSO are forming a mega-orchestra with LSO Discovery young musicians. I cannot wait to hear them fill Trafalgar Square with sound at this year's BMW Classics."

**BMW Classics**

London Symphony Orchestra  
Conductor Sir Antonio Pappano  
Sunday 15 June at 5.00pm  
Trafalgar Square, London

Media information

Date 25 March 2025

Subject BMW Group and London Symphony Orchestra announce BMW Classics in Trafalgar Square on 15 June 2025.

Page 3

**Gioachino Rossini** Semiramide: Overture**Giacomo Puccini** Capriccio sinfonico**Isabella Gellis** Opera for Orchestra (world premiere), with young musicians from LSO Discovery**Giuseppe Verdi** Aida: Grand March**Victor de Sabata** Juventus<https://www.lso.co.uk/bmwclassics/>

For audiences around the world, the concert will be live streamed on the London Symphony Orchestra's [YouTube Channel](#) and [Facebook page](#), and will be available to watch on demand from 14 days after the concert for up to 90 days.

For press material, please visit <https://lso.co.uk/more/press.html>.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/londonsymphonyorchestra](https://www.facebook.com/londonsymphonyorchestra)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/londonsymphonyorchestra](https://www.instagram.com/londonsymphonyorchestra)

@londonsymphonyorchestra

#LSOBMWClassics

The BMW Group's Cultural Engagement, with exclusive updates and deeper insights into its global initiatives can be followed on Instagram at [@BMWGroupCulture](#).

\*In vehicles with BMW Operating System 8.5 in conjunction with Connected Drive Professional (Not available in the BMW 2 Series Coupé, 3 Series, and 4 Series including M4); with BMW Operating System 9 in conjunction with BMW Digital Premium. MINI Operating System 9: In conjunction with MINI Connected Package.

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Corporate Communications**

Christiane Pyka

BMW Group Corporate and Governmental Affairs

Spokesperson Cultural Engagement

Phone: +49 89 382 40139

Email: [Christiane.Pyka@bmwgroup.com](mailto:Christiane.Pyka@bmwgroup.com)Media Website: [www.press.bmwgroup.com/global](http://www.press.bmwgroup.com/global)Email: [presse@bmw.de](mailto:presse@bmw.de)

Media information

Date 25 March 2025

Subject BMW Group and London Symphony Orchestra announce BMW Classics in Trafalgar Square on 15 June 2025.

Page 4

Christopher Millard  
London Symphony Orchestra  
Head of Press & External Relations  
Phone: +44 7545 502226  
Email: [chris.millard@lso.co.uk](mailto:chris.millard@lso.co.uk)

**About the London Symphony Orchestra**

The London Symphony Orchestra believes that extraordinary music should be available to everyone, everywhere – from orchestral fans in the concert hall to first-timer 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, ambition and a commitment to sharing the joy of music with everyone. The LSO performs some 70 concerts every year as Resident Orchestra at the Barbican, with its family of artists: 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 has major artistic residencies in Paris, Tokyo and at the Aix-en-Provence Festival, and regularly tours to Asia and the USA.

Through LSO Discovery, the LSO's learning and community programme, 60,000 people each year experience the transformative power of music. The Orchestra's musicians are at the heart of this unique programme, leading workshops, mentoring bright young talent, and visiting schools, hospitals and community spaces. The home of much of this work is LSO St Luke's, the LSO's venue on Old Street. In 2025, following a programme of works, the LSO will open up the venue's facilities to more people than ever before, with new state-of-the-art recording facilities and dedicated spaces for LSO Discovery.

The LSO's record label LSO Live is a leader among orchestra-owned labels, bringing to life the excitement of a live performance in a catalogue of over 200 acclaimed recordings, and reaching millions through streaming services and online broadcasts. The LSO has been prolific in the studio since the infancy of orchestral recording, and has made more recordings than any other orchestra – over 2,500 projects to date – across film, video games and bespoke audio collaborations.

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.

[www.lso.co.uk](http://www.lso.co.uk)

Media information

Date 25 March 2025

Subject

BMW Group and London Symphony Orchestra announce BMW Classics in Trafalgar Square on 15 June 2025.

Page

5

**BMW Group Cultural Engagement**

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 worldwide for over 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](http://www.bmwgroup.com/culture) and [www.bmwgroup.com/overview](http://www.bmwgroup.com/overview)

Instagram: [@BMWGroupCulture](https://www.instagram.com/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 services. The BMW Group production network comprises over 30 production sites worldwide; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2024, the BMW Group sold over 2.45 million passenger vehicles and more than 210,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2024 was € 11.0 billion on revenues amounting to € 142.4 billion. As of 31 December 2024, the BMW Group had a workforce of 159,104 employees.

The economic success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. Sustainability is a key element of the BMW Group's corporate strategy and covers all products from the supply chain and production to the end of their useful life.

[www.bmwgroup.com](http://www.bmwgroup.com)

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/bmw-group/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/bmwgroup>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bmwgroup>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bmwgroup>

X: <https://www.x.com/bmwgroup>