

Media Information

July 8, 2024

Duncan Ward conducts BMW Classics on 13 July 2024.

The free summer open-air concert in Trafalgar Square by the London Symphony Orchestra.

London/Munich. This year's BMW Classics, the free summer concert on 13 July at 5pm, highlights the continued partnership between BMW Group and the London Symphony Orchestra, which for the last twelve years has brought superlative live orchestral music to audiences in one of the world's most iconic public spaces, Trafalgar Square, and to tens of thousands more around the globe watching on YouTube.

The 2024 BMW Classics concert conducted by Duncan Ward opens with Emmanuelle Chabrier's exuberant crowd-pleasing Joyeuse marche with Brahms' similarly frenzied and rhythmic dance piece Rondo alla zingarese to follow. For the central section of the concert, the LSO plays the world premiere of Joanna Lee's new work, beams.bellows.bounds, specially commissioned for this occasion. This piece, written for a mixed-ability orchestra, brings together LSO musicians with 50 young musicians from east London as part of the LSO Discovery programmes. For the final half of the concert the Orchestra will perform Stravinsky's magical score for the ballet Petrushka.

Dame Kathryn McDowell, Managing Director of the LSO: "BMW Classics concerts are the highlight of the Orchestra's London Season, an important fixture in London's summer calendar of music events and always a great moment to capture an audience of first timers and passersby, there is nothing quite like it. On behalf of the LSO and our audiences in Trafalgar Square and online, a big thank you to our esteemed partner BMW Group, and the Mayor of London for making this possible."

Mr Walter Mertl, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG, Finance: "We are pleased to announce that we will continue our partnership with the London Symphony Orchestra for another three years. Thanks to our ongoing collaboration, on 13 July it will once again be possible to experience an unforgettable concert evening with first-class live orchestral music. BMW Group's commitment to great music is an integral part of our global cultural engagement, which has been inspiring people around the world for more than half a century. I am very much looking forward to seeing Duncan Ward, the LSO and young musicians on stage."

Sadiq Khan, The Mayor of London: "I am delighted that the London Symphony Orchestra will return to play in the heart of our capital this summer for BMW Classics. Trafalgar Square will once again become our biggest open-air classical concert venue

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entertaining both Londoners and visitors with this free performance. It will also be a fantastic opportunity for young musicians from East London to perform alongside the LSO on this world-renowned stage, as we build a better London for everyone."

Joanna Lee, composer: "It is a complete honour to be commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra to compose a piece for LSO Discovery young musicians to perform alongside the LSO. beams.bellows.bounds is inspired by my time working nearby Trafalgar Square, when I would often sit in the Square and observe the dance-like nature of life, from morning to late: from the balletic beams of the still morning sun; to the brash bellows of taxis in cyclical motion and the pounding heartbeat of lines of protesters; and the exuberant bounds of street performers and audiences. The piece embraces the importance of music and musicians, and I am excited to hear its premiere at BMW Classics!"

BMW Classics 2024

London Symphony Orchestra

Conductor Duncan Ward

Saturday 13 July 2024, 5pm

Trafalgar Square & Online

Emmanuelle Chabrier Joyeuse marche**Johannes Brahms** Rondo alla zingarese**Joanna Lee** beams.bellows.bounds (world premiere) ***Igor Stravinsky** Petrushka**Duncan Ward** conductor**LSO Discovery Musicians** ***Guildhall School Musicians** ***London Symphony Orchestra**

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 further information please refer to the website www.lso.co.uk/bmwclassics. For press material, please visit <https://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 Antonio Pappano as Chief Conductor from September 2024, Sir Simon Rattle as Conductor Emeritus, 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 from all walks of life. LSO Discovery works at grassroots level in some of the city's most disadvantaged areas, presenting a packed schedule of inspiring, inclusive opportunities for performers, creators and listeners. Nearly 1,000 events take place year-round, harnessing the power of music to enhance wellbeing, encourage creativity and support talent to flourish. These experiences, mostly based at its music education centre LSO St Luke's on Old Street, aim to unite, educate, heal and inspire the local community.

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

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#LSOBMWClassics

BMW Group Cultural Engagement

State Opera for all Gerhard Richter **CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP** Kochi-Muziris Biennale
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INTERACTION State Academic Bolshoi Theatre of Russia Kyotographie Premio de Pintura
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 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.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BMW-Group-CultureInstagram: www.instagram.com/bmwgroupculture/

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#BMWGroupCulture

#drivenbydiversity

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 over 30 production sites worldwide; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2023, the BMW Group sold over 2.55 million passenger vehicles and more than 209,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2023 was € 17.1 billion on revenues amounting to € 155.5 billion. As of 31 December 2023, the BMW Group had a workforce of 154,950 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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