



## City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra announces 2023/24 Assistant Conductors

The CBSO today announces the appointment of **two new Assistant Conductors**. Building on the orchestra's rich history of spotting and celebrating new talent and working with the world's most exciting conductors, the scheme gives the conductors the opportunity to work closely with the world-leading orchestra across the full range of its activity.

**Rita Castro Blanco** and **Charlotte Corderoy** begin their new roles with the CBSO in October and will be assigned to a range of projects over the 23/24 season, from Family Concerts to international tours, World Premiere performances, and everything in between. They will also benefit from meetings and workshops with CBSO musicians, management and stakeholders alongside an open invitation to attend all rehearsals and concerts.

**Rita Castro Blanco** studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and was Principal Conductor of Huddersfield Philharmonic Orchestra. She has worked with the BBC Philharmonic, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Hallé, and her latest engagements include concerts with Lucerne Contemporary Festival Orchestra. **Charlotte Corderoy** is a graduate of The Royal Academy of Music and the University of Oxford, and has made debuts with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the City of London Sinfonia. She is Musical Director of the Royal Academy of Music's inaugural Junior Musical Theatre Department and the 2023/24 season will also see her first performances at Glyndebourne and with the Swedish Radio Choir.

The promising young conductors were appointed after an extensive and collaborative process involving Kazuki Yamada, CBSO musicians and management from an incredibly competitive field of applicants. Each brings valuable experience and fresh perspectives to the music the orchestra is proud to make in Birmingham, across the West Midlands and beyond.

Previous Assistant Conductors of the CBSO include Michael Seal, Alpesh Chauhan, Jonathan Bloxham, Jaume Santonja Espinós, Bertie Baigent and Olivia Clarke.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor, says: *'I am so thrilled that Rita and Charlotte will be joining our CBSO family and - like me - will have the incredible experience of learning and growing with the phenomenal musicians of this orchestra. From the audition process I can already see the passion, skill and joy they will bring to their roles as Assistant Conductors and I am really looking forward to working with them over the next 12 months.'*

### For further press information please contact

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## Notes to editors



### **Rita Castro Blanco**

Rita Castro Blanco is one of the most promising portuguese conductors of her generation and has had debuts with Orquestra Gulbenkian, Orquestra Sinfónica Portuguesa, Orquestra Metropolitana de Lisboa, Orquestra das Beiras, mpmp and Orquestra do Norte. From September 2019 to January 2022 she was Principal Conductor of the Huddersfield Philharmonic Orchestra.

Furthermore, the young conductor has worked as Assistant Conductor to Nuno Coelho, Joana Carneiro and Clark Rundell. During her studies at the Royal Northern College of Music, she also assisted at the BBC Philharmonic, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Manchester Camerata and Hallé, renowned conductors like Sir Mark Elder, Vasily Petrenko, Elim Chan, John Storgards, Joana Carneiro, Ed Gardner and Simone Young.

Rita Castro Blanco graduated with Distinction from the Master in Music in Performance at the RNCM, under the guidance of Clark Rundell and Mark Heron, after completing the Bachelor Degree in Orchestral Conducting at Academia Nacional Superior de Orquestra with Jean-Marc Burfin with exceptional marks.

Since the beginning of her formal studies, Castro Blanco has had the privilege to participate in international masterclasses with Royal Opera House, London Sinfonietta, Stavanger Symphony Orchestra and Balthasar Neumann Ensemble. In the summers of 2022 and 2021 she was a Conducting Fellow at the Tanglewood Festival, and Conducting Fellowship at the Lucerne Festival, and integrated the new Mentorship for Women Conductors at Festival d'Aix-en-Provence.

Her latest engagements include concerts with Lucerne Contemporary Festival Orchestra, Orquestra Sinfónica de Navarra and Real Filarmonia de Galicia.



### **Charlotte Corderoy**

Charlotte Corderoy is a London-based conductor and a recent graduate of The Royal Academy of Music, London (Orchestra Conducting, MA).

Alongside her work with the CBSO, the 2023/24 season will see Charlotte make her professional debuts at Glyndebourne Festival Opera (Assistant Conductor, *Don Giovanni*), and alongside Barbara Hannigan with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra & Swedish Radio Choir (Assistant Conductor, *The Rake's Progress* - Equilibrium Young Artist).

Charlotte has recently made her debut with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as the City of London Sinfonia at Opera Holland Park. The past year has seen her collaborate with Barbara Hannigan for a new recording of Stravinsky's chamber works (Linn Records, Spring 2024), and conduct British Youth Opera's most recent performance of Vaughan Williams's *The Pilgrim's Progress* at The Three Choirs Festival in Gloucester.

As of September 2022, Charlotte was appointed Musical Director of the Royal Academy of Music's inaugural Junior Musical Theatre Department. Further theatre credits include Musical Director for NYMT's 2023 run of Porter's *Kiss Me Kate* (Leicester Curve), Keys Dep for *Strictly Ballroom the Musical UK Tour*, and Rehearsal Pianist for *Only Fool's and Horses The Musical*, on London's West End.

Before moving to London, Charlotte worked at Charterhouse School in Surrey, as their Graduate Music Assistant and completed her Bachelor's Degree in Music, graduating with First Class Honours with an Organ Scholarship from Hertford College, University of Oxford.

### **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO)**

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) is an internationally celebrated symphony orchestra, at home in Birmingham. A family of 90 incredible musicians, led by Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor Kazuki Yamada, proud to make exciting musical experiences that matter to the people of Birmingham, the West Midlands and beyond.

Resident at Symphony Hall, the orchestra's musicians perform over 150 concerts each year in Birmingham, the UK and around the world, with music that ranges from classics to contemporary, soundtracks to symphonies, and everything in between. With a far-reaching community and education programme, alongside a family of choruses and youth ensembles, it is involved in every aspect of music-making in the Midlands – and has been for more than 100 years.

This longstanding tradition started with the orchestra's very first symphonic concert in 1920 – conducted by Sir Edward Elgar. Ever since then, through war, recessions, social change and

civic renewal, the CBSO has been proudly 'Birmingham's orchestra'. Under principal conductors including Adrian Boult, George Weldon, Andrzej Panufnik and Louis Frémaux, the CBSO won an artistic reputation that spread far beyond the Midlands. But it was when it discovered the young British conductor Simon Rattle in 1980 that the CBSO became internationally famous – and showed how the arts can help give a new sense of direction to a whole city.

Rattle's successors, Sakari Oramo, Andris Nelsons and Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, helped cement that global reputation and continued to build on the CBSO's tradition of flying the flag for Birmingham.

In April 2023, Japanese conductor Kazuki Yamada took up the post of Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor, and under his dynamic leadership, the CBSO continued to do what it does best – playing great music for the people of Birmingham, the Midlands, and beyond.