

## **Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla to become Associate Artist of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra**



The **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO)** is delighted to announce that **Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla** will take up the role of **Associate Artist** from December 2023. Currently Principal Guest Conductor, Mirga was Music Director of the CBSO from 2016-2022. This exciting new position will see her returning regularly to Birmingham, in a continuation of her acclaimed relationship with the orchestra and choruses.

**Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla** quotes Daniel Barenboim who said some years ago: *“Music can lift our feelings and imagination to undreamed spheres.”* She adds *“I am incredibly grateful to have experienced so many times together with CBSO how true this is - and I am so happy that we are going to discover and share many more of those undreamed spheres.”*

Next month, Mirga presents a programme which showcases her signature creative voice: a personal tour of the music of Eastern Europe, taking audiences on a journey from Georgia to the Baltic. Presenting works by Čiurlionis, Loboda, Kakhidze and Weinberg, Mirga places a host of CBSO musicians in the spotlight as soloists - clarinettist Oliver Janes, flautist Marie-Christine Zupancic and violist Adam Römer – as well as her own sister, pianist Onutė Gražinytė ([From Mirga with Love](#), Wednesday 6 December).

Mirga’s Associate Artist role sits alongside Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor Kazuki Yamada, Associate Conductor Michael Seal, and Assistant Conductors Rita Castro Blanco and Charlotte Corderoy.

**Emma Stenning**, Chief Executive of the CBSO, says: *“I am thrilled to formalise our continuing relationship with Mirga through this exciting new role, ever strengthening her incredible bond with the musicians of the CBSO. As Associate Artist, we look forward to her regular return to the orchestra, bringing her intense musicality and creative flair to performances for our audiences both here in Birmingham, and further afield.”*

Full 2023-24 season details can be found at [cbso.co.uk/season](https://www.cbso.co.uk/season)

**For further press information please contact**

Rebecca Driver Media Relations

web: [www.rdmr.co.uk](http://www.rdmr.co.uk)

email: [maddie@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:maddie@rdmr.co.uk)

tel: 07817002653

## Notes to Editors

### **Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla**

In 2016, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla was appointed Music Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, succeeding conductors such as Sir Simon Rattle, Sakari Oramo and Andris Nelsons. The CBSO has since given numerous acclaimed performances under her direction, including guest appearances and tours worldwide. She stepped down as music director at the end of the 21/22 season, but remains closely connected to the orchestra as Associate Artist.

Recent highlights include Britten's War Requiem at the Salzburg Festival, a new production of Janáček's The Cunning Little Vixen at the Bayerische Staatsoper, as well as guest appearances with Münchner Philharmoniker, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Accademia di Santa Cecilia and Concertgebouw Orchestra.

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla's projects in 2023/24 encompass returns to Sinfonieorchester Basel, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Philadelphia Orchestra, as well as to Münchner Philharmoniker at home and on tour (Lucerne, Cologne and Berlin) and to the Bayerische Staatsoper with a new production of Debussy's Pelléas et Mélisande. She will be making her debuts with New York Philharmonic, Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden and at the Teatro Real Madrid with a new production of Mieczysław Weinberg's The Passenger.

A native of Vilnius, Lithuania, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla was born into a musical family. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in choral and orchestral conducting from the University of Music and Fine Arts, Graz, Austria. Afterwards she continued to study at the Music Conservatory in Bologna, the Music Conservatory in Leipzig and the Music Conservatory in Zurich.

From 2011-14 she worked as Kapellmeister at the Theater and Orchester Heidelberg and at the Konzert Theater Bern, before being appointed Music Director of the Salzburger Landestheater (2015-17).

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla's debut CD was released by Deutsche Grammophon in spring 2019. It delighted critics and listeners worldwide, was hailed as a significant contribution to the rediscovery of Mieczysław Weinberg's oeuvre, and won both the Opus Klassik and Grammophon Awards in 2020. The recordings were made with the participation of City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Kremerata Baltica and Gidon Kremer. This was followed by a portrait album of the Lithuanian composer Raminta Šerkšnytė for DG and "The British Project" with works by Britten, Elgar, Walton and Vaughan Williams. On the latest release, the young conductor again turns her attention to the works of Weinberg.

### **About the 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.