



## ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ORCHESTRAS ANNOUNCES SIMON WEBB AS NEW CHAIR

Director of the BBC Philharmonic, **Simon Webb**, has been elected as the new Chair of the **Association of British Orchestras (ABO)**. He succeeds Gavin Reid, Chief Executive of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

**ABO Director Mark Pemberton** said: "I am delighted that Simon Webb has been elected Chair of the ABO. His experience as both a musician and manager will be invaluable in putting the ABO at the heart of strategies for sustaining and rebuilding the orchestral sector as we emerge from the pandemic. My thanks too to Gavin Reid for his skilled and committed chairing of the ABO these past 3 years".

**Simon Webb** said: "The work the ABO does on behalf of the UK orchestral sector is essential and greatly valued by its membership. I look forward to working with Mark Pemberton, his team and the ABO board to ensure the UK's orchestras remain fully supported during these challenging times and beyond. Gavin Reid has chaired the ABO for the last three years and I thank him for his excellent leadership over this period."

In addition to Gavin Reid, outgoing board members are Matthew Swann, Ginny Macbeth and Catherine Arlidge MBE. The remaining board members will conduct a Governance Review prior to new board members being elected in Spring 2021.

The 2021 ABO Conference is scheduled to take place 10-12 March. Further details about the conference and its format will be announced at a later date.

**@aborchestras** [abo.org.uk](http://abo.org.uk)

**Rights free images of Simon Webb are available [here](#).**

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### **Notes to editors:**

**Simon Webb** has been the Director of the BBC Philharmonic, based at Media City UK in Salford, since 2014. Previously he was Director of Orchestral Management at the CBSO 2008-2014. He started his career as a cellist with orchestras in Portugal, Hong Kong and Ireland and was a member of the London Philharmonic Orchestra from 1996 to 2005 and Chair of the LPO's board 2000-2005. Simon's first role in management was at Sheffield's Music in the Round as Administrative Director where he was involved in setting up Ensemble 360. He is currently a governor of Chetham's School of Music in Manchester and chair of the Association of British Orchestras.

He studied theology at Selwyn College Cambridge then the cello at the Royal Academy of Music and was a fellow on the Clore Cultural Leadership programme 2007-8.

Simon is married with three children and lives in Sheffield where he still occasionally plays the cello and conducts choirs and orchestras at his local church.

The **Association of British Orchestras** is the national body representing the collective interests of professional orchestras, youth ensembles and the wider classical music industry throughout the UK. The ABO's mission is to enable and support an innovative, collaborative and sustainable orchestral sector by providing advice, support, intelligence and information to the people who make British orchestras a global success. Recent initiatives include Resonate in association with PRS Foundation and BBC Radio 3, which supports the best orchestral music of the last 25 years, and Find Your Way which identifies and offers training to future sector leaders. The ABO campaigned successfully for Orchestra Tax Relief and continues to campaign for the sector at the highest levels, to help build resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. [www.abo.org.uk](http://www.abo.org.uk) @aborchestras