Welcome to The British Police Symphony Orchestra.

This year's season has once again come to an explosive end with our annual “Last Night of the Proms” Spectacular at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham. Over 1800 people enjoyed this year’s show. If you missed the music, fun and fireworks but don’t want to miss out next year then see our website.
HISTORY

Wherever you may travel throughout the world you will almost certainly encounter police bands of all types with strong military or colonial routes. What you will probably not find is a police symphony orchestra, particularly one of the quality and size of the British Police Symphony Orchestra.

As one of the Nation’s most highly acclaimed amateur orchestras, the BPSO has gone from strength to strength since its formation in 1989. In addition to delighting audiences with performances of classical and light music, the orchestra generously supports a variety of charities around the United Kingdom.

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Members of the orchestra first met in Birmingham in October 1989 when viola player Constable Alex Roe of the West Midlands Police extended an invitation to police officers and police support staff musicians to attend a rehearsal in the city. The invitation was to all members of the UK’s 45 constabularies and resulted in an initial attendance of around 90 aspiring orchestral musicians.

After little more than a year of hard work, the Orchestra set off on its first tour, performing at major venues as far afield as Glasgow, Liverpool, London, Exeter and Birmingham. The success of that tour set the stage for subsequent tours and concerts in many other parts of the UK and northern Europe allowing the BPSO to build on its reputation for quality and value.

It has also been privileged to perform at major venues such as Birmingham's Symphony Hall, The Royal Albert Hall, Barbican and Fairfield Halls in London, Manchester’s Free Trade Hall and the Colston Hall in Bristol, to name but a few. It has also performed in some of the nations most prominent cathedrals including those at Coventry, Lichfield and Bristol and at Beverley and York Ministers.

EVENING ALL

An evening with the BPSO has something for everyone from the fun of the 'Last Night of the Proms' annual concert at Symphony Hall, open-air concerts on sultry summer evenings to more serious classical concerts with performances of symphonies and concerto’s. Audiences can be assured of a polished performance, whatever their taste.

The orchestra is accomplished at performing a vast range of music including film scores, music from the shows, choral works and modern music, as well orchestral, symphonic classics. Performances by the orchestra combine high quality musicianship with a varied programme with excellent value for money, guaranteeing an enjoyable and memorable night out.
A SOUND COMMITMENT

The BPSO comprises more than 75 dedicated musicians representing the majority of the UK’s 45 constabularies. As a mark of their commitment and enthusiasm, they travel from all over the nation at their own expense and in their own time to attend monthly weekend rehearsals. The orchestra prides itself on the quality of its musicianship and each member is an accomplished musician in his or her own right, often playing with other orchestras or groups elsewhere.

Whatever their ability, and the orchestra has the benefit of utilising many musicians of a professional standard. Players do not receive any financial reward from their participation in the BPSO although the orchestra does employ a professional conductor and soloists and occasionally tutors on this basis.

CHARITY AND COMMUNITY

Although the BPSO is self financing and a charity in its own right (registered charity number 1003562) the first ten years saw it raise tens of thousands of pounds for good causes in addition to boosting awareness of the many organisations that it has worked with. Charities that have received donations from the BPSO include Save The Children, Police Dependants Trust, Royal Ulster Constabulary Widows and Orphans Fund, Macmillan Cancer Relief, Douglas Macmillan Hospice and the Derbyshire Association For The Blind.
Dr Timothy Brain QPM BA PhD FRSA

Chief Constable of Gloucestershire
&
Chair British Police Symphony Orchestra

Dr Timothy Brain QPM BA PhD FRSA has been the Chief Constable of Gloucestershire since 2001. He was previously Deputy Chief Constable from 1998. Before joining the Service he was a student at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, from 1972 to 1978 where he read history, obtaining a first class honours degree in 1975 and his PhD in 1983. He joined the Avon and Somerset Constabulary in 1978 under the graduate entry scheme, rising from constable to chief inspector prior to joining the Hampshire Constabulary on promotion to superintendent. He became Assistant Chief Constable in the West Midlands Police in 1994, where he was responsible for Community Affairs and later Operations. His specific responsibilities included the policing of Euro '96, counter terrorist operations, and the extensive reorganisation of the force in 1997. In 1998 he was promoted to become Deputy Chief Constable of Gloucestershire, where his responsibilities included community relations and strategic planning.

Since becoming Chief Constable of Gloucestershire he has embarked upon a programme of significant strategic change, turning the Constabulary into a leading edge 21st Century organisation. The Force's strategic plan Vision5 has been recognised as a leading example of strategic management. Achievements include completing the first Tri-service (Police, Fire and Ambulance) Emergency Control Centre, creating new specialist investigative units to combat serious and organised crime, and receiving the Investors In People award, becoming one of the few Police Forces to corporately achieve the standard. In January 2006 the Force completed a four-year project to build and occupy a new state of the art Headquarters. This was built under the Public Finance Initiative, and was concluded on time and under budget.
He has been a member of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) since 1994 and is now one of the most senior chief constables in the country. He is the Association’s spokesperson on Prostitution and related vice matters, taking a leading part in framing the Government’s policy dealing with child prostitution in 1998 and creating ACPO’s own prostitution strategy in 2004. He is chair of ACPO’s Finance Business Area, with national responsibility for financial matters. He is also Chair of the Chief Police Officers’ Staff Association (CPOSA).

He has written extensively on a variety of police matters, and is a frequent speaker at conferences on a wide range of police subjects including strategic leadership, performance management and anti-vice policing. He has been a critical reader for several publishing projects. He is member of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, advisory boards to the Department of History and Welsh History, and the School of Management and Business Studies. He was appointed Visiting Professor in Police Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Human Studies at London South Bank University in 2006.

He was awarded the Queen’s Police Medal (QPM) in the 2002 Birthday Honours. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (FRSA) in 2004.

His interests include history, music and rugby union. He is chair of the British Police Symphony Orchestra and British Police Rugby.

Dr Brain is married with one son.
Patrick Bailey held the conducting scholarship to the Royal College of Music where he worked as assistant conductor to, amongst others, Sir Andrew Davis and Diego Masson. Whilst there, he won the August Manns Conducting Prize and the Worshipful Company of Musicians' Silver Medal. He also won scholarships to continue his studies at the Britten-Pears School as assistant to Oliver Knussen and at the Dartington International Summer School.

He has conducted concerts with the English Sinfonia, ViVA, Sinfonia 21, New Music Players, Britten-Pears Orchestra and many others at festivals all over the country including Aldeburgh, Brighton, Bath and York and in London (including Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall and Barbican).

A regular conductor with The Opera Group, one of the country's leading professional touring opera companies, he has conducted Bernstein's Candide, Shostakovitch's The Nose, Peter Maxwell Davies' The Martyrdom of St. Magnus, Walton's The Bear and the premiere of Edward Rushton's The Young Man With the Carnation at the Almeida Opera.

He has also conducted opera for the Norfolk and Norwich Festival, Dartington Festival, Solaris Music Theatre and the London College of Music. With the New Music Players, Patrick has made recordings and broadcasts for BBC Radio and conducted several scores to silent film. He has also given concerts in France, Germany, Italy, Dubai, India and the USA.

He teaches at the Royal College of Music and is Head of Conducting at the London College of Music & Media where he directs the Sinfonietta. He is the Music Director of the British Police Symphony Orchestra, City University Symphony Orchestra, the Hertfordshire Schools Symphony Orchestra and, from 2004, the Thursford Christmas Spectacular.