

Bath Philharmonia appoints Jason Thornton as Conductor Emeritus

Bath Philharmonia is proud to announce the appointment of Jason Thornton as Conductor Emeritus in recognition of his 25-year tenure and his impact on concertgoers, workshop participants and community music leaders across the UK. Jason Thornton founded Bath Philharmonia as a professional orchestra in 2000 and served as its music director and creative music leader. His creativity and approach to inclusion helped realise Bath Phil's purpose to bring joy through live orchestral music and was the recipient of Creative Bath's Inspirational Person Award in 2022.

Since its inaugural concert in September 2000, highlights have included being the first orchestra to perform at the Eden Project in 2003, enjoying several broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and providing young carers with memorable platforms on the concert stage, in the Houses of Parliament and as part of a Christmas single last year.

Jason's final concert with Bath Philharmonia took place on 4 July 2025 as part of this year's Budleigh Music Festival in Devon, where he has held the role of Artistic Director since 2019. This all-American programme was suitably celebratory in nature, providing a concert of star-spangled pieces and a great night out for music lovers of all ages.

Co-chairs of Bath Philharmonia, Vicki Davies and Adam Powell said of the appointment: "We're proud to confirm this appointment, recognising the contribution Jason has made over the last 25 years – not just to Bath Philharmonia but reshaping how an orchestra can be a powerful force for good. We're grateful for what Jason has built in Bath Philharmonia and the legacy we're honoured to be stewarding for years to come."

On stepping down as Music Director, Bath Philharmonia Conductor Emeritus Jason Thornton said of the news: "I'm grateful to be honoured in this way and I can't quite believe it's 25 years. It's been a privilege to work alongside a group of virtuoso orchestral musicians for so long and I wouldn't change any of our musical adventures together. In particular, our non-formal, entertaining and experimental

programming and welcoming approach on stage makes our music-making resonate with joy and am immensely proud of what the Bath Phil Family has achieved over the last quarter century.”

Bath Phil is finalising its 2025/26 season and continues its Silver Anniversary celebrations with an upcoming series of exciting concerts, bringing together world-class soloists, accessible programming and music created by local young talent together. Bath Phil looks forward to announcing its roster of esteemed guest conductors and experienced communicators for a further year of joyous live performance – and innovating creative learning partnerships.

Jason continues his affiliation with Bath Philharmonia as Conductor Emeritus and will be building on his significant experience as an established conductor, music leader and producer, continuing to perform nationally and remaining an influential voice and advocate for music education and inclusion. Jason Thornton is represented by Ikon Arts Management.