

## Simon Halsey appointed to new role at University of Birmingham

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Simon Halsey, Director of the CBSO Chorus, will take up a new role at the University of Birmingham as Professor and Director of Choral Activities.

Based in Birmingham, Simon Halsey continues in his long-standing role as Chorus Director of the CBSO Chorus, leading an unrivalled symphonic choral programme and working closely with Andris Nelsons and the CBSO on performances of some of the masterpieces of the choral repertoire, across the UK and internationally. Building upon this role, Halsey will begin a collaboration with the University of Birmingham, taking the position of Professor and Director of Choral Activities. This forms part of an ambitious development plan for the University's choral activities, and will also extend the already close collaboration between the University and the CBSO.

Of the appointment, Halsey commented: 'As I enter my thirty first year as Chorus Director of the CBSO, I am very excited that the University of Birmingham will go into partnership with the CBSO and its wonderful choruses to establish a **MA in Choral Conducting** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/music/choral-conducting.aspx>), specialising in directing symphonic repertoire. This course will be unique, offering our students an extraordinarily close involvement in the day to day life of the CBSO whilst giving ample opportunities to benefit from the rich and varied musical life offered by the University.'

**Professor Michael Whitby** (</university/governance/ueb/mwhitby.aspx>), Head of the University of Birmingham's College of Arts and Law said: 'We are delighted to welcome Simon Halsey to the position of Professor and Director of Choral Activities. This new appointment will not only strengthen the University's links with musical groups in the City, but will enrich the choral opportunities for staff, students and the community.'

Halsey also takes up positions as Choral Director of the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and Artistic Director of the Berlin Philharmonic Youth Choral Programme.

Simon Halsey is Chief Conductor of the Berlin Radio Choir, working closely with such conductors as Sir Simon Rattle, Claudio Abbado and Marek Janowski. He was also recently announced as Director of the BBC Proms Youth Choir, a collaboration which starts with a performance of Tippett's A Child of Our Time with David Robertson and the BBC Symphony Orchestra on 1 August 2012.

Ends

Notes

For further information, including biography and images, please visit: <http://intermusica.co.uk/halsey>. For any further enquires, please contact Tim Woodall at Intermusica: [twoodall@intermusica.co.uk](mailto:twoodall@intermusica.co.uk) (<mailto:twoodall@intermusica.co.uk>) +44 20 7608 9909 or Kate Chapple, Press Officer, University of Birmingham, tel 0121 414 2772 or 07789 921164.

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