



## Press Release

For release: Wednesday 6 May 2020

### **Meurig Bowen appointed Chief Executive and Artistic Director of Britten Sinfonia**

**Meurig Bowen** has been appointed Chief Executive and Artistic Director of internationally renowned UK chamber orchestra **Britten Sinfonia**.

Currently Head of Artistic Planning at BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales, and previously Director of Cheltenham Music Festival for 10 years, Meurig will join Britten Sinfonia in August 2020 to lead the orchestra's artistic planning and administration.

**Dr Jerome Booth**, Chairman of Britten Sinfonia's Board of Trustees comments:

*"Britten Sinfonia has always been fearless in its approach to music making and Meurig shares our sense of energy and inquiry. He is an experienced and adventurous programmer and a passionate advocate for reaching wider audiences with music of the highest quality and ambition. The match between his dynamic approach and one of the world's finest chamber orchestras is an enticing one and we look forward to welcoming him this summer."*

**Meurig Bowen** comments:

*"I've been a long-time admirer of Britten Sinfonia's distinctive musicianship and the vitality and sheer excellence of its music making. It's therefore a great joy to be able to follow in David Butcher's footsteps and to work with Britten Sinfonia's virtuoso musicians, highly committed staff and board to help shape an invigorating future for one of the world's finest chamber orchestras."*

Meurig will succeed **David Butcher**, who will leave Britten Sinfonia at the end of July to take up the post of Chief Executive of Manchester's Hallé Orchestra in September 2020.

Further press information from Sophie Cohen on 07711 551 787

[sophie@sophiecohenartspr.com](mailto:sophie@sophiecohenartspr.com)

Alice Walton, Communications Director, Britten Sinfonia on 07717 31 3241

[alice.walton@brittensinfonia.com](mailto:alice.walton@brittensinfonia.com)

[www.brittensinfonia.com](http://www.brittensinfonia.com)

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About Britten Sinfonia**

In 1992 Britten Sinfonia was established as a bold reimagining of the conventional image of a chamber orchestra. A flexible ensemble of some of the UK's leading soloists and chamber musicians came together with a unique vision: to collapse the boundaries between old and new music, to collaborate with composers, performers and guest artists across artforms and genres; and to create involving, intelligent music events that both audiences and performers experience with an unusual intensity.

Britten Sinfonia is an Associate Ensemble at the Barbican in London and Resident Orchestra at Saffron Hall, has residencies in Norwich and Cambridge and performs a chamber music series at Wigmore Hall. The orchestra has a busy international touring schedule, appearing throughout Europe, the USA and Asia and its recent performance with The Sixteen at the Sistine Chapel reached more than a million people worldwide.

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### **About Meurig Bowen**

Meurig Bowen was born and brought up in London, and studied music at King's College, Cambridge, where he was a Choral Scholar. After managing the Hilliard Ensemble in London in his twenties, he was Artistic Administrator of the Australian Chamber Orchestra in Sydney for six years, before successive posts as Director of the Lichfield Festival, Head of Programming for Aldeburgh Productions, Director of Cheltenham Music Festival (2007-2017) and, currently, Head of Artistic Planning for BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales.