



## PRESS RELEASE



# QATAR AIRWAYS AND CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA STRIKE A CHORD WITH NEW PARTNERSHIP

Qatar Airways becomes  
'Official Airline Partner' of  
the City of Birmingham  
Symphony Orchestra (CBSO)

Partnership reinforces  
airline's commitment to both  
arts and culture in the UK

Qatar Airways has been appointed as the 'Official Airline Partner' of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and as a 'Major Supporter of the Spirit of Birmingham project'.

The addition of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra partnership further emphasises the airlines' commitment and long history of proudly supporting events and organisations across the world in both the arts and sporting arenas.

The partnership, which will run until July 2017, includes support of the Spirit of Birmingham project which places music at the heart of local schools.

Richard Oliver, Country Manager, UK & Ireland said: "We are proud to be the Official Airline Partner of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, known throughout the world for their excellence and professionalism. We look forward to not only welcoming the orchestra on board but being part of and supporting the important work that the CBSO undertakes in local schools."

Stephen Maddock, CBSO Chief Executive said: "We are delighted to begin our journey with Qatar Airways as our first Official Airline Partner, and to embark on a close partnership together. This partnership is an example of the welcome commitment that Qatar Airways has made to Birmingham and our local community, supporting both of our international reputations, whilst highlighting the increased importance of private funding to the Arts."

With an artistic team led by new Music Director, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, the CBSO plays over 130 concerts a year in



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Birmingham, the UK and around the world.

The Qatar Airways network offers more than 150 destinations from Birmingham via its hub, Hamad International Airport, Doha, passengers can experience the renowned award winning service on board while travelling on one of the most modern fleets in the sky.

The airline launched eight weekly services from Birmingham Airport on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016, the addition marks the fourth U.K. city for Qatar Airways, joining London Heathrow, Manchester and Edinburgh.

The Birmingham route is operated by a Boeing 787 Dreamliner in a two-cabin configuration, comprising of 22 seats in Business Class and 232 Economy Class seats. All seats include individual television screens, with Economy Class customers benefitting from a screen 10.6 inches wide, offering the latest inflight entertainment comprised of up to 3,000 options, complimented by the airline's award-winning service.

#### **Flight times:**

##### **Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday:**

Birmingham (BHX) to Doha (DOH) departure 08:55 arrival 17:35

Doha (DOH) to Birmingham (BHX) departure 01:30 arrival 06:50

##### **Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday:**

Birmingham (BHX) to Doha (DOH) departure 16:20 arrival 01:00  
(next day)

Doha (DOH) to Birmingham (BHX) departure 07:00 arrival 12:20

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

#### **Notes to Editors:**

Qatar Airways, the national carrier of the State of Qatar, is one of the fastest growing airlines operating one of the youngest fleets in the world. Now in its 19th year of operations, Qatar Airways has a modern fleet of 184 aircraft flying to more than 150 key business and leisure destinations across six continents.

Qatar Airways won Airline of the Year, Best Business Class Airline Seat and Best Airline in the Middle East at the 2015 Skytrax Awards. This is the third time the airline won the accolade of Airline of the Year.

Qatar Airways is a member of the **oneworld** global alliance. The award-winning alliance was named the World's Best Airline Alliance

2015 by Skytrax for the third year running. Qatar Airways was the first Gulf carrier to join global airline alliance, **oneworld**, enabling its passengers to benefit from more than 1,000 airports in more than 150 countries, with 14,250 daily departures.

Qatar Airways launched Oryx One in 2015, an enhanced interface for its inflight entertainment system, increasing the number of movies and TV shows on board from 950 to up to 3,000. Passengers flying on Qatar Airways flights served by its B787, A350, A380, A319 as well as select A320 and A330 aircraft can also stay in touch with their friends and family around the world by using the five-star airline's on-board Wifi and GSM service.

Qatar Airways Cargo, the world's third largest cargo carrier, serves more than 50 exclusive freighter destinations worldwide via its Doha hub and also delivers freight to more than 150 key business and leisure destinations globally on 184 aircraft. The Qatar Airways Cargo fleet now includes eight Airbus A330Fs, nine Boeing 777 freighters and two Boeing 747 freighters.

#### **For further information contact:**

For more information, visit our homepage [www.qatarairways.com](http://www.qatarairways.com) or our sites on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Instagram, and YouTube.

For Qatar Airways corporate images, please click here: <http://www.qatarairways.com/corporateimages>

#### **About the CBSO**

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra is one of the world's great orchestras, and the flagship of musical life in Birmingham and the Midlands.

Based at Birmingham's spectacular Symphony Hall, the orchestra and its ensembles give over 150 concerts each year in the UK and worldwide, playing a wide range of music including everything from Wagner operas to world premieres, film music and family concerts. With a far-reaching education and community programme, six choruses and a Youth Orchestra, it is involved with every aspect of music-making in the Midlands. But at its heart is a team of 90 superb professional musicians, and a 95-year tradition of making the world's greatest music.

The orchestra was founded by future Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in 1920, and Elgar conducted its inaugural concert. But it was when it discovered the young British conductor Simon Rattle in 1980 that the CBSO became internationally famous, and showed how the arts can help give a new sense of direction to a whole city. Rattle's successors Sakari Oramo and Andris Nelsons cemented that global reputation, and continued to build on the CBSO's distinguished tradition as one of the UK's

leading musical ambassadors.

Under the artistic leadership of newly-appointed Osborn Music Director Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla the CBSO will continue to do what it does best – playing great music for people in Birmingham and beyond. As it approaches its centenary in 2020, the CBSO remains one of the most vibrant cultural organisations in the UK.