

## **BU Honorary Graduate Citation - James Rose**

Chancellor/Pro-Chancellor

James Rose is the Conductor and Artistic Director of the world's first, disabled-led musical ensemble; BSO Resound. Having developed the six-piece ensemble and chosen its original repertoire, James oversaw its debut at the 2018 BBC Proms within a performance by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

James, who conducts using a baton attached to his glasses to indicate time and dynamics, has pursued a career in the arts since graduating from University College Falmouth in 2007 with a Degree in Broadcasting, and a Diploma in Neuro Linguistic Programming. Starting out in filmmaking and theatre, he made a short documentary film before experiencing the buzz of performing as a dancer at the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

This experience inspired James to revisit his early ambitions to become a conductor; a notion he had originally dismissed as nothing more than a fantasy. Equipped with a new-found belief that, with the right focus and strategy anything is possible, he started with the very basics of music study before attending an open day at the Royal Academy of Music for its Master's in Conducting programme. James was invited to sit in on classes every week and then to lead conducting development workshops at the Royal Academy, for which he secured Arts Council funding. After responding to Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's request for a disabled artist to apply to its Change Makers programme, James undertook an 18-month traineeship during which he founded BSO Resound and achieved an ISP Advanced Professional Certificate.

Through his work, James is passionate about levelling the field for disabled performers and believes that individuals should be judged on their musical talent regardless of whether they have a disability.

Beyond his professional career, James has also championed the rights of disabled people through volunteering. He has served as trustee for CPotential Trust, providing therapeutic services and support to children with movement disorders, and as a steering committee member for Disabled People's Voice in Hampshire.

Chancellor/Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present James Rose, and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Music, honoris causa.