Paavo Järvi

Conductor

*“One rarely experiences such an immediate connection between orchestra and conductor, such an extraordinarily attentive presence on both sides so that with economical means an understanding of the most subtle shades is possible.”*  Wiener Zeitung

Estonian Grammy Award-winning conductor Paavo Järvi is widely recognised as the musicians’ musician, enjoying close partnerships with the finest orchestras around the world. He serves as Chief Conductor of the Tonhalle Orchester-Zürich and the NHK Symphony Orchestra, and Artistic Director of Die Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and the Estonian Festival Orchestra, of which he is also Founder. He is Conductor Laureate of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Music Director Laureate of Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Advisor of the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra.

In October 2019, Järvi officially begins his tenure as Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, following a season as conductor designate. With a focus on his Nordic roots, he opens the season with Sibelius’ *Kullervo* and invites Estonian composer Erkki-Sven Tüür as Creative Chair. Throughout the year Järvi and the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich also perform and record the complete cycle of Tchaikovsky symphonies, for release in 2021.

Paavo Järvi opens his fifth season as Chief Conductor of the NHK Symphony Orchestra with Beethoven’s *Fidelio* and brings the orchestra back to Europe for their second major tour together, in programmes featuring Takemitsu, Schumann, Beethoven and Bruckner, with performances in Tallinn, London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Cologne, Dortmund, Brussels and Amsterdam.

Celebrating 15 years as Artistic Director of Die Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, he returns to the repertoire that first made their collaboration famous, with a full cycle of Beethoven symphonies in Frankfurt in April 2020. They also continue their exploration of Brahms and embark on a new composer focus – Haydn’s ‘London’ symphonies.

Having started out as resident summer ensemble at the annual Pärnu Music Festival, which was also founded by Järvi, the Estonian Festival Orchestra has stormed the international music scene, making debuts throughout Europe and Japan. In 2019/20, Alpha Classics releases their second album, dedicated to the music of Erkki-Sven Tüür, in celebration of the composer’s 60th birthday and of the Festival’s 10th anniversary.

In addition to his permanent positions, Järvi is in demand as a guest conductor, appearing regularly with the Berliner Philharmoniker, London’s Philharmonia Orchestra, Staatskapelle Berlin, Münchner Philharmoniker, Staatskapelle Dresden and Leipzig Gewandhaus. Highlights of his guest engagements include the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Wiener Philharmoniker and NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester. This season, he returns to the Orchestre de Paris, Luxembourg Philharmonic and Philharmonia Orchestra.

Paavo Järvi’s upcoming projects include his first recording with the Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, featuring orchestral music by Messiaen, to be released on Alpha Classics in October, coinciding with his inauguration as Music Director. Two new recordings featuring Mahler and Wagner with the NHK Symphony Orchestra will be released internationally on the RCA Red Seal Label to accompany their European tour in February 2020. Alpha Classics will also release the Estonian Festival Orchestra’s second recording, celebrating Estonian composer Erkki-Sven Tüür with live recordings of works performed at the Pärnu Music Festival.

Recent recording projects include the third recording in the Brahms Symphony series with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and the complete Sibelius Symphony Cycle, which Järvi recorded with the Orchestre de Paris. He was awarded the Sibelius Medal and named 2019 Conductor of the Year by Germany’s Opus Klassik in recognition of this project and received the 2019 Rheingau Music Prize for his artistic achievements with The Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen in the German orchestral and cultural landscape.

Other prizes and honours include a Grammy Award for his recording of Sibelius’ Cantatas with the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, Artist of the Year by both Gramophone (UK) and Diapason (France) in autumn 2015, and Commandeur de L’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture for his contribution to music in France. As a dedicated supporter of Estonian culture, he was awarded the Order of the White Star by the President of Estonia in 2013 for his outstanding contribution to Estonian culture.

Born in Tallinn, Estonia, Paavo Järvi studied Percussion and Conducting at the Tallinn School of Music. In 1980, he moved to the USA where he continued his studies at the Curtis Institute of Music and at the Los Angeles Philharmonic Institute with Leonard Bernstein.

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