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, as the long-standing Artistic Director of The Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and of the Estonian Festival Orchestra, which he founded in 2011. He is also Conductor Laureate of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Music Director Laureate of Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Advisor of the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra.

In September 2020, Paavo Järvi commences his second season as Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich with the Swiss premiere of a new version of La Sindone by Arvo Pärt. Taking over the mantle of “Creative Chair” from Erkki-Sven Tüür, Pärt’s music will feature regularly, together with performances by Focus artists Olli Mustonen and the Labecque Sisters. Järvi’s second season in Zürich will also see the start of a Mendelssohn cycle and the completion of the complete Tchaikovsky symphonies, which feature in their Spring 2021 Hamburg Residency. Alpha Classics will release the first album in the Tchaikovsky cycle in November 2020, with Symphony No.5 and Francesca da Rimini.

Paavo Järvi’s sixth season as Chief Conductor of the NHK Symphony Orchestra builds on the success of their tour of Europe in February-March 2020, followed by a nomination for Orchestra of the Year by Gramophone Magazine. A double CD featuring the Stravinsky-Balanchine collaborated masterpieces will also be released on the Sony Red Seal label.

During the 2020/21 season Paavo Järvi and The Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen will reunite for prominent residencies of the complete Beethoven symphonies cycle in Bremen, Frankfurt and Asia, returning to a project that brought them international acclaim over a decade ago. They also continue their exploration of Brahms as well as their most recent focus – Haydn’s ‘London’ symphonies.

Each season concludes with a week of performances and conducting masterclasses at the Pärnu Music Festival in Estonia, which Paavo Järvi founded in 2011 together with his father, Neeme Järvi. The success of both the festival and its resident ensemble – the Estonian Festival Orchestra – has led to a string of high-profile invitations including recent performances at the BBC Proms, Hamburg Elbphilharmonie and a tour of Japan.

In addition to his permanent positions, Järvi regularly appears with the Berliner Philharmoniker, London’s Philharmonia Orchestra, Münchner Philharmoniker and the Orchestre de Paris, where he served as Music Director from 2010 to 2016. This season Järvi returns to perform with all of these orchestras as well the New York Philharmonic, the Concertgebouworkest in Amsterdam and the Filarmonica della Scala in Milan.

In 2019 Paavo Järvi was named Conductor of the Year by Germany’s Opus Klassik 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 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 and in 2015 he was presented with the Sibelius Medal in recognition of his work in bringing the Finnish composer’s music to a wider public. In 2012 he also received the Paul-Hindemith-Preis of the city of Hanau.

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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