

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, the tenth conductor to head the Los Angeles Philharmonic, is currently in his 14th season as Music Director. He made his American debut conducting the Los Angeles Philharmonic in November 1984, and he has conducted the orchestra every season since. His current tenure is the second-longest in Philharmonic history, and he recently extended his contract through the 2007/08 season. Alongside his activities as a conductor, Salonen has also won acclaim for his work as a composer.

Among the many highlights of Salonen's activities with the Philharmonic have been world premieres of works by composers John Adams, Franco Donatoni, William Kraft, Witold Lutoslawski, Magnus Lindberg, Bernard Rands, Kaija Saariaho, Rodion Shchedrin, Steven Stucky, Tan Dun, and Augusta Read Thomas, as well as his own works. He has led critically acclaimed festivals of music by Berlioz, Ligeti, Schoenberg, Shostakovich, and Stravinsky, and has served as Music Director of the Ojai Music Festival. He and the Philharmonic have toured extensively since 1992, including extended residencies at the Salzburg Festival and at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris.

Highlights of recent seasons included the critically acclaimed Tristan Project, a collaboration with Peter Sellars and Bill Viola featuring a semi-staged production of *Tristan und Isolde*; the complete cycle of Beethoven's Piano Concertos with Mitsuko Uchida; and "3 x Salonen" – followed by a successful spring 2005 residency in Cologne which celebrated his 20 years of conducting the Los Angeles Philharmonic and his work as a composer.

Salonen's latest orchestral work, *Wing on Wing*, received its world premiere in June 2004 as part of the Philharmonic's Building Music Festival. In March 2003 Salonen signed an exclusive four-year recording contract with Deutsche Grammophon. The label released *Wing on Wing* in 2005, on a disc devoted to his recent works. In January 2006, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Salonen recorded their first CD in Walt Disney Concert Hall for a scheduled 2007 release on DG. Before signing with DG, Salonen recorded regularly with the Los Angeles Philharmonic for Sony Classical. A Sony disc of Salonen's compositions, including *LA Variations*, *Five Images After Sappho*, *Giro*, *Gambit*, and *Mania*, has garnered critical acclaim throughout the U.S. and in Europe. Salonen and the Philharmonic's discography also includes the debut recording of John Adams' *Naive and Sentimental Music* – a work that the orchestra premiered – for the Nonesuch label.

Esa-Pekka Salonen was born in Helsinki in 1958. After studies at the Sibelius Academy in Finland and with private teachers Franco Donatoni and Niccolò Castiglioni in Italy, he made his conducting debut with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra in 1979. He is the recipient of many major awards including the Siena Prize from the Accademia Chigiana in 1993, the first conductor ever to receive the prize; the Royal Philharmonic Society's Opera Award in 1995; and their Conductor Award in 1997. In 1998 he was awarded the rank of Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government; in 2003 he received an honorary doctorate from the Sibelius Academy in Finland. Salonen was named the 2006 Musician of the Year by *Musical America*.