

## ESA-PEKKA SALONEN

Esa-Pekka Salonen, the tenth conductor to head the Los Angeles Philharmonic, has begun his 13<sup>th</sup> 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. Alongside his activities as a conductor, Salonen has garnered 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, Tan Dun, Witold Lutoslawski, Magnus Lindberg, Gabriela Ortíz, Bernard Rands, Rodion Shchedrin, Steven Stucky, and Augusta Read Thomas, as well as his own works. He has led critically acclaimed festivals of music by Ligeti, Schoenberg, Shostakovich, Stravinsky, and Berlioz, and has appeared with the orchestra at the Ojai Music Festival as the Festival's Music Director. He and the Philharmonic have toured extensively since 1992, including a month-long residency at the Salzburg Festival and at the Theatre du Châtelet in Paris.

Highlights of the 2003/2004 season included three gala concerts to inaugurate Walt Disney Concert Hall, nine world premieres, and festivals celebrating Berlioz, the relationship between architecture and music, and the theme of creation. Salonen's latest orchestral work, *Wing on Wing*, received its world premiere as part of the Philharmonic's Building Music Project in June 2004. This season, a series of subscription concerts – 3 x *Salonen* – and a residency in Cologne, Germany celebrate Salonen's 20 years of conducting the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the body of his work as a composer.

In March 2003, Salonen signed an exclusive four-year recording contract with Deutsche Grammophon with releases to include a disc of his own works, which includes *Wing on Wing*, and is released in February 2005. Before signing with DG, Salonen recorded regularly with the Los Angeles Philharmonic for Sony Classical. A disc of Salonen's own 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 made 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 by 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 and in 2003 he received an honorary doctorate from the Sibelius Academy in Finland.