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ESA-PEKKA SALONEN JOINS COLBURN SCHOOL FACULTY TO LEAD NEW NEGAUNEE CONDUCTING PROGRAM

Inaugural Class of Salonen Fellows to Enter Conservatory of Music in Fall 2019

(Wednesday, October 3, Los Angeles) – Sel Kardan, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Colburn School, today announced that world-renowned composer and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen will join the Colburn School faculty to develop, lead, and direct a pre-professional conducting program, which will be known as the Negaunee Conducting Program.

Salonen will develop a course of study in the school’s Conservatory of Music for a small, select group of aspiring young conductors. Known as Salonen Fellows, these students will develop their craft and nurture their talent through personal mentorship. In keeping with the Colburn School Conservatory model, students will receive full scholarship to cover tuition, room, and board. At both the Colburn School and with the Philharmonia Orchestra, where Salonen serves as Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor, the Salonen Fellows will gain significant real-world podium experience in Los Angeles and throughout the world.

“I’m very excited to be launching the Negaunee Conducting Program at the Colburn School,” said Esa-Pekka Salonen. “It’s been a long-term hope of mine to develop something that offers hands-on experience for young conductors. What makes this special is the collaboration between the Philharmonia and the School, bridging the gap from Conservatory to professional music-making.”

“We are thrilled that Esa-Pekka Salonen will be joining Colburn School’s esteemed faculty and look forward to welcoming the first Salonen Fellows to our community for what will be an invaluable and enriching experience at an important time in their careers,” said Andrew Millstein, Chairman of the Colburn School’s Board of Directors.

“It is a great pleasure to welcome Esa-Pekka Salonen to the Colburn School faculty, and we are deeply

grateful to the Negaunee Foundation for its support,” said Kardan. “Esa-Pekka has forged an innovative path as a conductor, music director, and composer both here in Los Angeles, and throughout the world. In collaboration with the Philharmonia Orchestra, the conducting program will allow the Salonen Fellows an unprecedented opportunity to study and work closely with one of today’s most important music figures.”

Together, the Colburn School and Philharmonia Orchestra will establish public opportunities for the Salonen Fellows to lead the world-class Philharmonia in both its residency series and designated tour dates. The Fellows will have the opportunity to collaborate with other young musicians on the Philharmonia’s Emerging Artists program, designed to connect young artists to the wider life of the Philharmonia; work with Philharmonia’s management to develop and produce Salonen’s flagship projects; and serve as assistant conductors to Salonen for his international engagements with the Philharmonia, other orchestras, opera houses, tours, and festivals.

“We are delighted to host Salonen Fellows and to partner with the Colburn School in supporting the development of the next generation of conductors,” said Helen Sprott, Managing Director of the Philharmonia Orchestra. “The Philharmonia supports young artists at every stage of the talent pipeline, from early years to post-graduate levels: we want emerging musicians everywhere to benefit from contact with the Philharmonia and its players, and the opportunity to identify and work with outstanding young conductors in this visionary global program is a wonderful manifestation of our mission and vision.”

Throughout the program, the Fellows will study with Salonen at the Colburn School and serve as preparatory conductors for the flagship Colburn Orchestra. They will also conduct the Zipper Outreach Orchestra, Colburn’s performing ensemble for its community engagement activities, and the Concerto Forum Showcase, an annual public concert that features soloists from the Conservatory of Music. Salonen will also engage the Conservatory student body by presenting occasional seminars on conducting and career development; will coach Conservatory students preparing for orchestral auditions; and will regularly conduct the Colburn Orchestra as part of its annual performance series. On January 31, 2019, Salonen will conduct the Colburn Orchestra at The Soraya. Please [click here](#) for more details.

Colburn School will seek applications through December 1, 2018; live auditions will be held in the first quarter of 2019; and the first formal class of Fellows will begin in fall 2019. Please visit <http://colburnschool.edu/conducting> for more information about the audition process. A maximum of three students will participate in the program in any given year to allow for ample podium time and access to Salonen. Graduating Salonen Fellows will earn a Diploma in Conducting.

The conducting program is made possible by the Negaunee Foundation, created in 1987 to celebrate and support the arts and cultural institutions.

About Esa-Pekka Salonen

Esa-Pekka Salonen's restless innovation drives him constantly to reposition classical music in the 21st century. He is known as both a composer and conductor and is currently the Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor for the Philharmonia Orchestra and the Conductor Laureate for the LA Phil, where he was Music Director from 1992 until 2009. He is also Artist in Association at the Finnish National Opera and Ballet, where he will conduct his first full *Ring* cycle in future seasons and *Pelléas et Mélisande* this season. In addition, Salonen co-founded the annual Baltic Sea festival, serving as Artistic Director from 2003 to 2018.

About the Colburn School

The Colburn School comprises four academic units united by a single philosophy: that all who desire to study music and dance should have access to top-level instruction.

Units of the School are:

- the degree-granting Conservatory of Music, a preeminent training ground for professional musicians
- The Music Academy, a pre-college program preparing musicians to study at top conservatories
- The Trudl Zipper Dance Institute, a comprehensive dance program including the elite pre-professional Dance Academy
- The Community School of Performing Arts, offering a graded curriculum of private lessons and group instruction in music performance, appreciation, and theory for everyone, from the youngest children to adults

Together, these units provide performing arts instruction to more than 2,000 students from around the world, with a renowned artist faculty who serve as invaluable mentors guiding the students' artistic development. A robust community engagement program delivers performing arts education to low-income students in the surrounding areas. In addition, Colburn offers over \$1.5 million in scholarships to Community School students each year. Located in downtown Los Angeles, the Colburn School's campus boasts state-of-the-art performance and rehearsal spaces. Each season, the school presents over 300 concerts and performances, many of which are free and open to the public, at its downtown home and throughout Southern California.

The Colburn School has selected Frank Gehry, the world-renowned Founder and Principal of Gehry Partners, to design a campus expansion adjacent to its existing facilities in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles. The project will add an 1100-seat concert hall—the Colburn School's first venue for full-scale orchestra performances—along with a 600-seat theater for dance and vocal performance, an outdoor performance venue, a dance rehearsal center, and student and guest artist housing, providing unprecedented facilities in which students of the School can hone their artistry and perform. Collaborating with Gehry on the building, which is initially estimated to provide approximately 200,000 square feet of space, will be Yasuhisa Toyota of Nagata Acoustics and Michael Ferguson, principal of TheatreDNA.

About the Philharmonia Orchestra

Led by its Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor Esa-Pekka Salonen, the Philharmonia creates thrilling performances in the concert hall and reaches new listeners and participants through audience development projects, digital technology, and a learning and participation programme. Based in London,

with residencies throughout England, a thriving international touring schedule and global digital reach, the Philharmonia engages with a worldwide audience.

The Orchestra's home is Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, in the heart of London, where the Philharmonia has been resident since 1995 and presents a season of around 50 performances each year. Orchestral programming is complemented by series including *Philharmonia at the Movies*, *Music of Today*, the Philharmonia Chamber Players and an Insights programme.

Under Salonen and other key conductors, the Philharmonia has created a series of critically-acclaimed, visionary projects, distinctive for both their artistic scope and supporting live and digital content. Recent series include *City of Light: Paris 1900-1950* (2015) and *Stravinsky: Myths & Rituals* (2016), which won a South Bank Sky Arts Award. In 2019, Salonen presents *Weimar Berlin: Bittersweet Metropolis*, a celebration of the feverish creativity of the Weimar era through the prism of its music, drama and film.

The Philharmonia is orchestra-in-residence at venues and festivals across England, and has a diverse UK touring programme that regularly takes the Orchestra to the BBC Proms, Edinburgh International Festival and St David's Hall in Cardiff. The Philharmonia's residencies are at Bedford Corn Exchange, De Montfort Hall in Leicester, The Marlowe in Canterbury, The Anvil in Basingstoke (where it is Orchestra in Partnership), the Three Choirs Festival in the West of England, and Garsington Opera.

At the heart of the Orchestra's residencies is an education programme that empowers people in every community to engage with, and participate in, orchestral music. Its flagship *Orchestra Unwrapped* project for schools encompasses concerts, in-school workshops and teacher training, delivered in partnership with Music Hubs; intergenerational creative music-making community project *Hear and Now* brings together people living with dementia and their carers with young musicians; and urban-classical project *Symphonize* engages vulnerable teenagers.

The Orchestra works with a wide range of higher education institutions across its residencies, including with our Strategic Partner in Leicester, De Montfort University, which brings a wealth of opportunities for students.

Please visit <https://www.philharmonia.co.uk/orchestra/about> for more information.

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