

LA PHIL AND ORCHESTRE DE PARIS ANNOUNCE THE SALONEN INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTING FELLOWSHIP

New transatlantic program will provide emerging conductors with mentorship, professional experience and artistic development opportunities under the guidance of Creative Director Esa-Pekka Salonen



Photo by Josh S. Rose

LOS ANGELES, CA (October 5, 2026) — The LA Phil and Orchestre de Paris today announced the launch of the Salonen International Conducting Fellowship, a groundbreaking new initiative designed to nurture and accelerate the careers of the next generation of orchestral conductors. Conceived in partnership with LA Phil Judith and Thomas L. Beckmen Creative Director **Esa-Pekka Salonen**, who will also assume the titles of Creativity and Innovation Chair of the Philharmonie de Paris and Principal Conductor of the Orchestre de Paris in 2027/28, the Fellowship will offer early-career conductors unparalleled access to artistic mentorship, practical podium experience, and professional development opportunities at Los Angeles' Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Philharmonie de Paris.

Beginning in the 2027/28 season, the Fellowship will annually welcome two to four fellows, who will participate in a year-long program during which they will spend approximately six weeks working with each orchestra. Over this time they will gain firsthand experience with two of the

world's leading musical institutions while building an international network of peers, artists and administrators.

"Nobody develops in isolation," said Salonen. "Whatever I have been able to do as a musician has been shaped by teachers, colleagues, orchestras, and institutions that were willing to invest in talent and curiosity long before there was any guarantee of success. The Los Angeles Philharmonic and Philharmonie de Paris represent the absolute best of classical music: they are worlds apart culturally and geographically, and yet united by their shared sense of imagination concerning the future of our art form. I can think of no better a setting for a young conductor to broaden their horizons and develop their own artistic voices than these two institutions."

The Salonen International Conducting Fellowship will combine hands-on conducting opportunities with individualized mentorship and career development. Fellows will gain experience leading education and community engagement performances, serve as cover conductors for major orchestral programs and participate in workshops and discussions with industry professionals across artistic, administrative and creative disciplines.

Said LA Phil's Kim Noltemy, President and CEO, David C. Bohnett Presidential Chair, "The future of our art form depends on cultivating exceptional musical leaders and creating meaningful pathways for emerging talent to thrive. The Salonen International Conducting Fellowship reflects our commitment to mentorship, artistic excellence and international collaboration. We are proud to partner with Orchestre de Paris and Esa-Pekka to provide conductors with the support needed to build lasting careers."

"Conducting is a lifelong process: learning, discovery and consolidation. The LA Phil and I share a deep commitment to nurturing exceptional musical talent at every stage of that journey," said incoming LA Phil Music Director Daniel Harding. "The Dudamel Fellowship program has helped launch the careers of a generation of young conductors. With the Salonen International Conducting Fellowship, I am delighted that my dear friend Esa-Pekka will continue that tradition, bringing together the extraordinary creative community of the LA Phil and another center of artistic innovation very close to my heart, the Philharmonie de Paris. I look forward to supporting this partnership and to seeing the young conductors who emerge from it."

"I am delighted by the collaboration between our two institutions, which is all thanks to Esa-Pekka Salonen," said Olivier Mantei, Director General Cité de la musique - Philharmonie de Paris. "The Fellowship is an integral part of the close partnership between the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Philharmonie de Paris. Next season this extraordinary conductor and composer will become Principal Conductor of the Orchestre de Paris as well as the Creativity and Innovation Chair at the Philharmonie de Paris. This collaboration will also comprise creative exchanges, joint commissions and performances, which we look forward to sharing with our public."

Said Christian Thompson, Director of the Orchestre de Paris, "I have met very few conductors who have the ability to explain and teach the mysterious art of conducting as Esa-Pekka Salonen does, and he is truly one of the very best at it. He has a way to mentor and to encourage and to demystify the role of a conductor. This Fellowship, which we are proud to

imagine with our friends in Los Angeles, gives these young conductors the unique opportunity to see inside two completely different—yet both world class—symphony orchestras and institutions.”

A central component of the Fellowship will be direct mentorship from Salonen, who will meet individually with each fellow twice annually. Fellows will also receive feedback from musicians, artistic personnel and orchestra administrators, providing a comprehensive understanding of the skills required to lead modern cultural organizations.

In addition to their work with the orchestras, Fellows will gather each year for a week-long summit alternating between Los Angeles and Paris. The summit will provide opportunities for collaboration, artistic exchange and community building among participants. The Fellowship will culminate in a public performance and showcase opportunity highlighting the Fellows' artistic achievements.

Applications for the inaugural Salonen International Conducting Fellowship are currently open. Following an international review process, selected candidates will be invited to participate in live auditions. The first audition will take place in Los Angeles on January 30, 2027, with Fellows selected by Salonen following a comprehensive evaluation process. Fellows will be announced in spring 2027.

Fellowship Highlights

- One-year appointment
- Up to six weeks of immersive residencies with both the LA Phil and Orchestre de Paris
- One-on-one mentorship sessions with Esa-Pekka Salonen
- Conducting opportunities in education and community engagement performances
- Annual Fellowship summit alternating between Los Angeles and Paris
- Professional development workshops with industry leaders
- Housing, travel and professional support resources

Applications, eligibility requirements and additional program details are available [here](#) and will be posted soon on the Orchestre de Paris, Philharmonie de Paris website: [Recrutement | Philharmonie de Paris](#).

ABOUT ESA-PEKKA SALONEN

Esa-Pekka Salonen is renowned as both a composer and conductor. He recently concluded his position as Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony (2020–25) and currently serves as Judith and Thomas L. Beckmen Creative Director of the LA Phil, Conductor Laureate of the Philharmonia Orchestra, LA Phil, and Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra. He is the founder and director of the Colburn School's Negaunee Conducting Program, which he directs as a member of the faculty and he co-founded the Baltic Sea Festival, serving as its Artistic Director from 2003 to 2018. Esa-Pekka Salonen will assume the titles of Creativity and Innovation Chair of the Philharmonie de Paris and Principal Conductor of the Orchestre de Paris in 2027/28.

Recent highlights include conducting the 2023 Nobel Prize Concert, winning the prestigious Polar Music Prize and composer residencies with the Berlin Philharmonic and Elbphilharmonie Hamburg. He recently led the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra in a newly reconstructed version of Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina* with Simon and Gerard McBurney, featuring never-before-heard music from a recently discovered manuscript.

Salonen's major compositions include concertos for piano (Yefim Bronfman), violin (Leila Josefowicz), and cello (Yo-Yo Ma), all appearing on recordings he conducted himself; *Karawane*, a work for voice and orchestra after a Dadaist poem; and his 2023 Sinfonia concertante for organ and orchestra. His new Horn Concerto, recently premiered with Stefan Dohr at the Lucerne Festival, was performed during a tour of Boston, Milan, Paris and Hong Kong.

Known for his enthusiasm for cutting-edge technology, Salonen has helmed digital projects ranging from multimedia works to virtual reality installations and AI collaborations. Notable projects include the traveling installations *RE-RITE* and *Universe of Sound* with the Philharmonia Orchestra, the award-winning audience-responsive opera installation *Laila*, and various digital productions with the San Francisco Symphony featuring visual artists and his Collaborative Partners.

ABOUT THE LA PHIL

The [LA Phil](#) offers live performances, media initiatives and learning programs that inspire and strengthen communities in Los Angeles and beyond. The Los Angeles Philharmonic orchestra is the foundation of the LA Phil's offerings, which also include a multi-genre, multidisciplinary presenting program and such youth development programs as YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles). Performances are offered across four historic venues—[Walt Disney Concert Hall](#), the [Hollywood Bowl](#), [The Ford](#), and [Beckmen YOLA Center](#)—as well as through a variety of media platforms. In all its endeavors, the LA Phil seeks to enrich the lives of individuals and communities through musical, artistic and learning experiences that resonate in our world today.

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRE DE PARIS

France's leading symphonic formation, comprising 119 musicians, the Orchestre de Paris has been led by its 10th Music Director, Klaus Mäkelä, since September 2021. It distinguishes itself through a wide range of projects, multiplying educational initiatives alongside innovative artistic ventures. The Orchestre de Paris established its home at the Philharmonie de Paris from the moment of the venue's inauguration in 2015; it now contributes to several of the Philharmonie's flagship initiatives.

Founded in 1967 and heir to a long history dating back to the early nineteenth century, the Orchestre de Paris has been under the music directorship of Charles Munch, Herbert von Karajan, Daniel Barenboim, Paavo Järvi, Daniel Harding.... From September 2027, following Klaus Mäkelä's last season with the Orchestra, Esa-Pekka Salonen will become its Principal Conductor and will hold the Creativity and Innovation Chair of the Philharmonie de Paris. Roberto González-Monjas will be Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestra.

ABOUT PHILHARMONIE DE PARIS

The Cité de la musique - Philharmonie de Paris is a national public institution dedicated to musical performance, transmission and education. Constituting a large campus within the Parc de la Villette, it comprises four concert halls, the Musée de la musique, temporary exhibition spaces, educational

facilities, a media library, a new space dedicated to the artistic development of children aged 4 to 10 (the Philharmonie des enfants) and rehearsal rooms for orchestras and musicians.

Each season, the Cité de la musique - Philharmonie de Paris presents some 500 concerts and three temporary exhibitions. It is home to the Orchestre de Paris, the Ensemble intercontemporain and three resident orchestras, organizes a vast range of educational activities, and coordinates the nationwide Démonos youth orchestra program. Its mission is to bring music to new and broader audiences by promoting equal access for all to different forms of music.

Press Contacts

LA Phil

Leah Price - Leah.Price@laphil.org

Orchestre de Paris

Opus 64 / Valérie Samuel

Gaby Lescourret - g.lescourret@opus64.com

Philharmonie de Paris

François Arveiller – farveiller@cite-musique.fr