



SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

Contact:

Public Relations

San Francisco Symphony

(415) 503-5474

publicrelations@sfsymphony.org

sfsymphony.org/press

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(High resolution images of Esa-Pekka Salonen are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#). Photo by Andrew Eccles)

**NEWLY ANNOUNCED MUSIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE ESA-PEKKA SALONEN CONDUCTS
THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY FOR THE FIRST TIME FOLLOWING HIS APPOINTMENT, IN
CONCERTS JANUARY 18–20, 2019**

**Program includes West Coast Premiere of Anna Thorvaldsdottir's *METACOSMOS*, R. Strauss'
Also sprach Zarathustra, and Sibelius' *Four Legends of the Kalevala***

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—San Francisco Symphony's newly announced Music Director Designate **Esa-Pekka Salonen** leads the Orchestra for the first time following his appointment, **January 18–20, 2019** in Davies Symphony Hall. The concert program features **R. Strauss' *Also sprach Zarathustra***, **Sibelius' *Four Legends of the Kalevala***, and the West Coast premiere of Icelandic composer **Anna Thorvaldsdottir's *METACOSMOS***, which received its world premiere in April 2018 under Salonen's baton. With complex textures and timbres, *METACOSMOS* demonstrates the struggle between the "chaos and beauty" of the celestial abyss, complementing Strauss and Sibelius' iconic tone poems which highlight soloistic voices and sections within the orchestra.

As announced on December 5, Salonen will become the San Francisco Symphony's 12th Music Director in its 107-year history in September 2020, succeeding Michael Tilson Thomas, who will conclude his remarkable 25-year tenure as Music Director in July 2020. As a high-profile conductor, composer, and advocate for accessibility and varied musical voices, Salonen has shaped a unique vision for the present and future of the symphony orchestra. To ensure the San Francisco Symphony's place as an Orchestra for all, 200 \$20 tickets will be made available to students for each of the January 18–20 concerts, offering students an unparalleled opportunity to witness these historic performances. Salonen

will return as Music Director Designate in the 2019–20 season to conduct at least two weeks of concerts before beginning as Music Director in September 2020.

For these concerts, Salonen replaces conductor Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, who had to postpone her debut performances with the San Francisco Symphony due to the birth of her first child.

Esa-Pekka Salonen

Esa-Pekka Salonen's restless innovation drives him constantly to reposition classical music in the 21st century. Known as both a composer and conductor, he is the Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor for London's Philharmonia Orchestra, a position he leaves at the end of the 2020–21 season. Their award-winning RE-RITE and Universe of Sound installations have allowed people all over the world to step inside the orchestra through audio and video projections. Salonen also drove the development of a much-hailed app for iPad, The Orchestra, which gives the user unprecedented access to the internal workings of eight symphonic works. As the Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic (1992–2009), where he is now Conductor Laureate, Salonen was instrumental in opening the Frank Gehry-designed Walt Disney Concert Hall, presided over countless premieres of contemporary work, began the Esa-Pekka Salonen Commissions Fund, and made the orchestra one of the best attended and funded in the United States. Salonen is in his third of five years as 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. He is also Conductor Laureate for the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and co-founder of the annual Baltic Sea Festival, serving as its Artistic Director from 2003 to 2018. In 2015 Salonen addressed the Apple Distinguished Educator conference on the uses of technology in music education, and his Violin Concerto was featured in an international campaign for iPad.

Calendar editors, please note:

All concerts take place at Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA.

Tickets are available at [sfsymphony.org](https://www.sfsymphony.org), by phone at 415-864-6000, and at the Davies Symphony Hall Box Office, on Grove Street between Van Ness Avenue and Franklin Street in San Francisco

Pre-Order Food and Drinks: Concertgoers may pre-order food and beverages by calling 415-252-1937 or emailing Global Gourmet Catering staff at davieshallpreorder@ggcatering.com before the performance to place an order.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, ESA-PEKKA SALONEN CONDUCTING

[Friday, January 18, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 2 pm](#)

Esa-Pekka Salonen conductor
San Francisco Symphony

Anna THORVALDSDOTTIR
METACOSMOS [West Coast Premiere]

R. STRAUSS
Also sprach Zarathustra, Opus 30

SIBELIUS
Four Legends from the Kalevala, Opus 22
Lemminkäinen and the Maidens of the Island
Lemminkäinen in Tuonela
The Swan of Tuonela
Lemminkäinen's Return

Pre-Concert Talk: Elizabeth Seitz will give an “Inside Music” talk from the stage one hour prior to each concert. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Post-Concert Q&A with Esa-Pekka Salonen: An audience Q&A session will be presented from the stage immediately following each concert, moderated by Mark Hanson.

Tickets: \$50–225

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The San Francisco Symphony receives support from over 10,000 individual donors and 150 partner institutions.

Esa-Pekka Salonen’s appearance is supported by the Louise M. Davies Guest Conductor Fund.

These performances of Anna Thorvaldsdottir’s Metacosmos are supported by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for New Works of Music.

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