(Saison 2019/20 )

**Paavo Järvi *Chief Conductor and Music Director***

Talking to Paavo Järvi, it soon becomes clear that he never considered any other path in life: “Had I been born into a family of firemen, I might have wanted to become a fireman. But that’s purely hypothetical, because I had no other choice but to become a musician – and that’s a good thing.”

Who had the greatest influence on his development? “Undoubtedly my father, the conductor Neeme Järvi. It was certainly the experience of growing up in the family of a conductor – one who loves music to distraction and devotes himself to it with such abandon – that made a musician out of me.” Järvi started studying percussion and conducting while still in his native city of Tallinn, before going to the United States in 1980 to study under such masters as Leonard Bernstein.   
Paavo Järvi supports Estonian composers, is Artistic Adviser to the Estonian Festival Orchestra, and conducts concerts and master classes at the Pärnu Music Festival, which he co-founded with   
his father.

Paavo Järvi has been Chief Conductor of the NHK Symphony Orchestra (Tokyo) since 2015. He is also Artistic Director of the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen. Furthermore, he is Conductor Laureate of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony and Music Director Laureate of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. As a guest conductor, he collaborates with orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic, the London Philharmonia Orchestra, the Staatskapelle Dresden and the New York Philharmonic. Until 2016, he was Music Director of the Orchestre de Paris. Paavo Järvi has held the post of Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich since the beginning of the 2019/20 season.

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