

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 25, 2019

**COMPOSER / CONDUCTOR ESA-PEKKA SALONEN
TO RETURN TO THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC**

**New York Premieres of
Esa-Pekka SALONEN's *Gemini*
HINDEMITH's *Ragtime (Well-Tempered)***

**Program Also To Include
J.S. BACH's Two Chorale Preludes (Orchestrated by Schoenberg)
HINDEMITH's *Mathis der Maler* Symphony**

November 6, 8–9, and 12, 2019

Composer / conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen will return to the New York Philharmonic to conduct the New York Premieres of Mr. Salonen's *Gemini* and Hindemith's *Ragtime (Well-Tempered)*; J.S. Bach's Two Chorale Preludes (orchestrated by Schoenberg); and Hindemith's *Mathis der Maler* Symphony. The program will take place on Wednesday, November 6, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, November 8 at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, November 9 at 8:00 p.m.; and Tuesday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Esa-Pekka Salonen's *Gemini* comprises *Pollux*, premiered in 2018, and a newly composed movement titled *Castor*. Of the composition process of *Pollux*, Mr. Salonen wrote in 2018: "I encountered a strange problem: my material seemed to want to grow in two completely opposite directions.... This made me think of the myth of the non-identical twins Castor and Pollux who share half of their DNA, but have some extreme phenotype differences, and experience dramatically different fates.... My solution was to write two independent but genetically linked orchestral works. *Pollux*, slow and quite dark in expression, is the first of them. *Castor*, extroverted and mostly fast, will follow later." He has now completed *Castor*, which will be premiered as part of *Gemini* in October.

Hindemith's *Ragtime (Well-Tempered)* of 1921 combines ragtime, a popular dance of the day, with a theme from Bach's Fugue in C Minor from the *Well-Tempered Clavier*. Anticipating a backlash, the composer wrote on the score: "If Bach were alive today, he might perhaps have invented the shimmy or at least incorporated it into respectable music." Schoenberg orchestrated Bach's Two Chorale Preludes one year later, in 1922, when he had begun experimenting with twelve-tone music. Explaining his motivation for the arrangements, he wrote: "I do not attach importance to being a kind of musical 'peasantist' so much as to being a natural continuator of correctly understood, good, old tradition!" Mr. Salonen released an album of Bach transcriptions in 2000, and *Gramophone* called the selections "extremely beautiful" and "as fine a performance as I have heard." The other Hindemith work on the program, the *Mathis der Maler* Symphony, is

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inspired by the life of the German Renaissance painter Matthias Grünewald. Mr. Salonen served as the Philharmonic's Marie-Josée Kravis Composer-in-Residence, 2016–18.

The New York Philharmonic will offer an allotment of free tickets to young people ages 13–26 for the concert on Friday, November 8 as part of **Philharmonic Free Fridays**.

Biographies

[Esa-Pekka Salonen](#), [New York Philharmonic](#)

Tickets

Single tickets for the **subscription program** start at \$34. A limited number of \$18 tickets for select concerts may be available to **students** within 10 days of the performance at nyphil.org/rush, or in person the day of (valid identification required). Tickets for **Open Rehearsals** are \$22. The New York Philharmonic is offering an allotment of free tickets to young people ages 13–26 for the concert Friday, November 8 as part of Philharmonic Free Fridays; learn more at nyphil.org/freefridays.

Tickets to New York Philharmonic performances may be purchased online at nyphil.org or by calling **(212) 875-5656**, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets may also be purchased at the **David Geffen Hall Box Office**. The Box Office opens at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and at noon on Sunday. On performance evenings, the Box Office closes one-half hour after performance time; other evenings it closes at 6:00 p.m.

For press tickets, contact Lanore Carr at (212) 875-5714 or carrl@nyphil.org.

Event Listing

New York Philharmonic

David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Open Rehearsal — 9:45 a.m.

Friday, November 8, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 9, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Esa-Pekka Salonen, conductor

HINDEMITH

J.S. BACH / Orch. Schoenberg

Esa-Pekka SALONEN

HINDEMITH

Ragtime (Well-Tempered) (New York Premiere)

Two Chorale Preludes

Gemini (New York Premiere)

Mathis der Maler Symphony

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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Esa-Pekka Salonen's appearance is made possible through the **Charles A. Dana Distinguished Conductors Endowment Fund**.

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