



SAN FRANCISCO
SYMPHONY

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

Contact:

Public Relations

San Francisco Symphony

(415) 503-5474

publicrelations@sfsymphony.org

sfsymphony.org/press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / FEBRUARY 11, 2020



(High resolution images of Julia Bullock, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and Leila Josefowicz are available for download from the San Francisco Symphony's [Online Photo Library](#).)

MUSIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE ESA-PEKKA SALONEN CONDUCTS THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY IN TWO CONCERT PROGRAMS, FEBRUARY 20–22 & 27–29, 2020 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

February 20–22 concerts feature Ravel's *Mother Goose*; first SFS performances of Stucky's *Music for the Funeral of Queen Mary* (after Purcell); and SFS Artist-in-Residence soprano Julia Bullock performing Britten's *Les Illuminations* and Ravel's *Three Poems of Stéphane Mallarmé*

On February 27–29 Salonen leads the SFS in Nielsen's *Symphony No. 5*, Beethoven's *Overture to King Stephen*, and his own *Violin Concerto* performed by violinist Leila Josefowicz

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Music Director Designate [Esa-Pekka Salonen](#) leads the San Francisco Symphony (SFS) in two weeks of concerts, joined by 2019–20 SFS Artist-in-Residence soprano [Julia Bullock](#) February 20–22 and violinist [Leila Josefowicz](#) February 27–29, 2020 at Davies Symphony Hall. On **February 20–22**, Bullock performs works based on poems by notable French Symbolists—Britten's *Les Illuminations*, a song cycle set to poems of Arthur Rimbaud from his collection *Les Illuminations*, and Ravel's *Three Poems of Stéphane Mallarmé*, a sequence of three art songs based on poems by Stéphane Mallarmé. The program also features Ravel's *Mother Goose (Ma Mère l'Oye)*, music from the enchanting ballet based on folk tales by Charles Perrault, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Steven Stucky's haunting *Music for the Funeral of Queen Mary (after Purcell)*—a work inspired by a suggestion made by Esa-Pekka Salonen. On **February 27–29**, Esa-Pekka Salonen leads the Orchestra in his own *Violin Concerto* featuring virtuoso violinist Leila Josefowicz, who has championed the work since she gave its premiere in 2009. Completing the program is fellow Nordic composer Nielsen's kinetic *Symphony No. 5* and Beethoven's 1811 *Overture to King Stephen*, written to commemorate the opening of a new concert hall in Budapest.

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 Music Director Designate of the San Francisco Symphony and begins his post as the SF Symphony's 12th Music Director in September, 2020. Salonen 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. His Violin Concerto, which won the Grawemeyer Award, was featured in a 2014 international Apple ad campaign for iPad. 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 works, began the Esa-Pekka Salonen Commissions Fund, and made the orchestra one of the best attended and funded in the United States. Salonen is the Artist in Association at the Finnish National Opera and Ballet, where he begins his first *Ring* cycle this season, conducting *Das Rheingold* in the fall and *Die Walküre* in the spring. He is also the 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. He recently joined the faculty of LA's Colburn School, where he leads the Negaunee Conducting Program.

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, 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

[Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, February 21, 2020 at 8 pm](#)

[Sunday, February 22, 2020 at 8 pm](#)

[Esa-Pekka Salonen](#) conductor

[Julia Bullock](#) soprano

San Francisco Symphony

STUCKY

Music for the Funeral of Queen Mary (after Purcell) [First SFS Performances]

BRITTEN

Les Illuminations, Opus 18

RAVEL

Three Poems of Stéphane Mallarmé (Trois Poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé)

RAVEL

Mother Goose (*Ma Mère l'Oye*)

Tickets: \$20–160

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Ravel's *Mother Goose* (*Ma Mère l'Oye*), hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from sfsymphony.org/podcasts, and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from soundcloud.com/sfsymphony.

Pre-Concert Talk: Laura Prichard will give an "Inside Music" talk from the stage one hour prior to each performance. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Off-The-Podium: A post-concert audience Q&A session with Esa-Pekka Salonen, Julia Bullock, and moderator Mark C. Hanson, will be presented from the stage immediately following the concert on Friday, February 21. Free to all ticket holders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, March 3 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and kdfc.com where it will be available for on demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, ESA-PEKKA SALONEN CONDUCTING

[Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 10 am \(Open Rehearsal\)](#)

[Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 8 pm](#)

[Friday, February 28, 2020 at 8 pm](#)

[Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 8 pm](#)

[Esa-Pekka Salonen](#) conductor

[Leila Josefowicz](#) violin

San Francisco Symphony

BEETHOVEN

Overture to *King Stephen*, Opus 117

Esa-Pekka SALONEN

Violin Concerto

NIELSEN

Symphony No. 5, Opus 50, FS 97

Tickets: \$20–160

Audio Program Notes: Listen to a free podcast about Nielsen's Symphony No. 5, hosted by [KDFC's Rik Malone](#). All podcasts are archived, and can be streamed from sfsymphony.org/podcasts, and downloaded from the [iTunes store](#) and from soundcloud.com/sfsymphony.

Pre-Concert Talk: Peter Grunberg will give an "Inside Music" talk from the stage one hour prior to each performance. Free to all concert ticket holders; doors open 15 minutes before.

Off-The-Podium: A post-concert audience Q&A session with Esa-Pekka Salonen, Leila Josefowicz, and moderator Mark C. Hanson, will be presented from the stage immediately following the concert on Thursday, February 27. Free to all ticket holders.

Broadcast / Archived Stream: A broadcast of these performances will air Tuesday, March 10 at 8 pm on Classical KDFC 90.3 San Francisco, 104.9 San Jose, 89.9 Napa, and kdfc.com where it will be available for on demand streaming for 21 days following the broadcast.

Connect with the San Francisco Symphony on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), and [Soundcloud](#):



The San Francisco Symphony receives support from more than 8,500 individual donors and 250 partner institutions.

Chevron is the inaugural Second Century Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.

Emirates is the Official Airline of the San Francisco Symphony.

Franklin Templeton and Fiduciary Trust International are Season Partners of the San Francisco Symphony.

These concerts, a part of The Barbro and Bernard Osher Masterworks Series, are made possible by a generous gift from Barbro and Bernard Osher.

These concerts are made possible through the generosity of Trine Sorensen and Michael Jacobson in honor of Esa-Pekka Salonen and the musicians of the San Francisco Symphony.

Julia Bullock's appearance in the February 20–22 concerts is generously supported by the Shenson Young Artist Fund.

Michael Tilson Thomas and the Board of Governors of the San Francisco Symphony gratefully acknowledge the support of the Drs. Ben and A. Jess Shenson Endowment Fund and Fred Levin and Nancy Livingston of the Shenson Foundation for helping make the February 20–22 concerts possible.

February 20–22 concerts are presented in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

February 20–22 concerts are supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The performances of Esa-Pekka Salonen's Violin Concerto in the February 27–29 concerts are supported by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for New Works of Music.

The Open Rehearsals are endowed by a bequest from the estate of Katharine Hanrahan.

The San Francisco Symphony's Official Radio Partner is KDFC, The Bay Area's Radio Home for Classical Music and the Arts.

San Francisco Chronicle is the Official Media Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.

- SFS -