

philharmonia orchestra

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Short biography – 350 words

The Philharmonia Orchestra is one of the world's great orchestras. Acknowledged as the UK's foremost musical pioneer, with an extraordinary recording legacy, the Philharmonia leads the field for its quality of playing, and for its innovative approach to audience development, residencies, music education and the use of new technologies in reaching a global audience. Together with its relationships with the world's most sought-after artists, most importantly its Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor Esa-Pekka Salonen, the Philharmonia Orchestra is at the heart of British musical life.

Today, the Philharmonia has the greatest claim of any orchestra to be the UK's National Orchestra. It is committed to presenting the same quality, live music-making in venues throughout the country as it brings to London and the great concert halls of the world. In 2011/12 the Orchestra is performing more than 160 concerts, as well as presenting chamber performances by the Soloists of the Philharmonia Orchestra, and recording scores for films, CDs and computer games. Under Esa-Pekka Salonen a series of flagship, visionary projects – *City of Dreams: Vienna 1900-1935* (2009) and Bill Viola's *Tristan und Isolde* (2010) - have been critically acclaimed and during 2011 Salonen presents *Infernal Dance: Inside the World of Béla Bartók*, a pan-European exploration of the life, influences and music of the composer. For 16 years now the Orchestra's work has been underpinned by its much admired UK and International Residency Programme, which began in 1995 with the launch of its residencies at the Bedford Corn Exchange and London's Southbank Centre. During 2011/12 the Orchestra not only performs more than 35 concerts at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, but also celebrates its 15th year as Resident Orchestra of De Montfort Hall in Leicester and its 11th year as Orchestra in Partnership at The Anvil in Basingstoke; and launches a new residency at the new Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury. The Orchestra's extensive touring schedule this season also includes performances in more than 30 of the finest international concert halls in Europe, China and the United Arab Emirates, with conductors including Esa-Pekka Salonen, Lorin Maazel and Kurt Masur.

Not to be altered without permission