

Esa-Pekka Salonen

Esa Pekka Salonen – Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor

It's after concerts where there's, kind of, on high energy levels still because this is the moment when life is good.

I've been kind of busy.

The first night I came I went for a run and had a curry, which is my usual ritual, and the following day I had meetings with Simon Russell Beale...

Simon Russell Beale – Actor and Narrator

It's the most dreadful script. It's terrible. I've done it before and I'm so pleased Stravinsky didn't like it either!

Esa Pekka Salonen

... Did some interviews and photo shoots. It was kind of a busy day ...

... Then I met with the Philharmonia and we rehearsed in the Festival Hall...

Christian Jones – Principal Bass Trombone

It was really nice to hear Alistair say 'this is Esa Pekka Salonen, our new Principal Conductor.'

Alistair Mackie – Co-Principal Trumpet and Philharmonia Chairman

And of course, after a long wait it's absolutely tremendous for the orchestra, to be able to call Esa Pekka Salonen our new Principal Conductor.

Esa Pekka Salonen

In rehearsal...

That's it, thank you. Great.

David Cohen – Joint Principal Cello

It was great, it was good. Good rehearsals. I haven't been in for a while so it was great to be back and I thought the orchestra was in really good shape, and I thought it went really well. It was great.

Alistair Mackie

Yesterday was a good day. It was wonderful to get him started. We've known he was coming for some eighteen months. So to finally get to the day, the 18th of September when we knew he was going to begin was good. We kicked off with *Miraculous Mandarin*, which is a tremendous piece of music, and Esa Pekka does it brilliantly. So that was a really fantastic way to start off the day.

Esa Pekka Salonen

It was nice to see the orchestra. It didn't feel particularly dramatic to come in as the chief conductor, because I just came in as somebody who has been working with this orchestra for a quarter of a century.

Alistair Mackie

When Esa Pekka began yesterday morning it really was business as usual. We know him so well so it is a strange combination. We're very excited that he's taken the reigns and he's going to bring these great programmes and these great concerts, and that is definitely a feeling that is going around the orchestra.

Esa Pekka Salonen

It's really exciting. This is a very vibrant group. Lots of fine fine young players coming in and the old ones are doing very well as well. I think there's a happy kind of energy in the orchestra. It's been an inspiring couple of days already.

David Cohen

An early start. Another exciting day in Europe with the orchestra and with Salonen.

Airline Pilot

We will shortly be commencing our descent to Bremen.

Sam Burstin – Viola

Yeah, just a bit of calorific intake for the mammoth evening ahead. Today we're in Bremen. I think you can probably see Bremen Cathedral behind me. We've got a gig tonight, and then a day off tomorrow and then we start rehearsing for the big concert on Tuesday night at the Festival Hall, which is Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*.

Alistair Mackie

Oedipus is an astonishing piece of music, a really astonishing piece of music, and it is very typical of what Esa Pekka brings. He brings original programming, he tackles adventurous pieces, and I think that first concert, the mix of repertoire in that first concert really does represent what I think he'll bring to the orchestra.

Esa Pekka Salonen

This year is a big change in my life, and the opening concert in London with the Philharmonia symbolises all that, so it's much much more than just an ordinary concert.

In rehearsal...

Thank you. It's clearly audible! Very good.

Concert details...

Esa-Pekka Salonen *Conductor*
Vadim Repin *Violin*

Bartok Suite, *The Miraculous Mandarin*
Prokofiev Violin Concerto No. 2
Stravinsky *Oedipus Rex*

Tuesday 23rd September 7.30pm
Royal Festival Hall

Esa-Pekka Salonen *Conductor*
Hélène Grimaud *Piano*

Beethoven Overture, *Leonore No. 2*
Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4
Berlioz *Symphonie fantastique*

Saturday 27th September 7.30pm
Leeds Town Hall

and

Sunday 28th September 7.30pm
Royal Festival Hall