



WORLD ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

JUKKA-PEKKA SARASTE

“Everything he tackles [...] is a success, regardless of whether it is Beethoven, Brahms, Schönberg or Stravinsky.” –
Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Jukka-Pekka Saraste has established himself as one of the outstanding conductors of his generation, demonstrating remarkable musical depth and integrity. Born in Heinola, Finland, he began his career as a violinist before training as a conductor with Jorma Panula at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki.

An artist of exceptional versatility and breadth, Saraste feels a special affinity with the sound and style of late Romantic music. Equally, he maintains a strong connection with the music of our time, such as that of Dutilleux, Lindberg, Salonen and Saariaho, among others. He recently conducted the world premiere of Wolfgang Rihm's Triple Concerto and the German premiere of his *Transitus* at the Berlin Philharmonie, the world premieres of Friedrich Cerha's *Drei Orchesterstücke* and Pascal Dusapin's violin concerto at the Cologne Philharmonie, as well as the world premieres of Philippe Schoeller's *Songs from Esstal I, II, et III*, and Carmine Emanuele Cella's *Reflets de l'Ombre* at the Salle Pleyel, Paris.

Saraste has served as Chief Conductor of the WDR Symphony Orchestra, Cologne since 2010. In April 2015 he extended his contract until the 2018/2019 season. He was Music Director and Chief Conductor of the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra from 2006 to 2013, and at the end of his tenure there was made Conductor Laureate, the very first such title bestowed by that orchestra. His previous positions include the principal conductorships of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra (1987-1991), Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra (1987-2001), after which he was made Conductor Laureate, Toronto Symphony Orchestra (1994-2001), and he also served as Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra (2002-2005). He has recently held the position of Artistic Advisor of the Lahti Symphony Orchestra, and founded the Finnish Chamber Orchestra, for which he is still Artistic Advisor. He also founded the orchestra's annual Tammisaari Festival, for which he is Artistic Director.

His guest engagements have led him to the major orchestras worldwide, including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Munich Philharmonic, Dresden Staatskapelle, Bavarian Radio Symphony, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony, NHK Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris and the leading Scandinavian orchestras, among others. In the USA he has conducted the Cleveland Orchestra, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic and New York Philharmonic.

Jukka-Pekka Saraste's extensive discography includes the complete symphonies of Sibelius and Nielsen with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. He has made a number of critically acclaimed recordings for Toronto Symphony Orchestra of works by Bartók, Dutilleux, Mussorgsky and Prokofiev for Warner Finlandia, most notably a recording of Dutilleux's Second Symphony. His recordings of Mahler's sixth symphony with the Oslo Philharmonic and Mahler's ninth symphony with the WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne have received widespread acknowledgement. His recordings with WDR Symphony Orchestra for Hänssler have earned him high critical praise, and include Schoenberg's *Pelleas and Melisande*, Stravinsky's *The Firebird*, Brahms' Symphonies No. 1 and 3 as well as Mahler's 5th Symphony.

Jukka-Pekka Saraste has received the Pro Finlandia Prize, the Sibelius Medal, and the Finnish State Prize for Music. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from York University, Toronto and an honorary doctorate from the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki.

