SIBELIUS

Tue 5th Apr 2022

Grosse Tonhalle

Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich
Paavo Järvi Music Director



PAAVO JÄRVI MUSIC DIRECTOR

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8 pm Grosse Tonhalle

Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich Paavo Järvi Music Director

Concert on the occasion of the 31st IAMA International Conference (International Artist Managers' Association)



18 95





PROGRAMME

Jean Sibelius 1865–1957 Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 43

I. Allegretto

II. Tempo Andante, ma rubato

III. Vivacissimo – Lento e soave

IV. Finale: Allegro moderato

approx. 44'

Please have your cellphones set on silent mode during the concert. Any sound or audiovisual recordings are only permitted with the consent of the Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich AG.



Musik, Theater und Kunst – faszinieren, inspirieren, bewegen. Und fördern Dialog. Alles Gründe für Swiss Re, sich im Bereich Kultur zu engagieren, Kreativität und Leidenschaft zu unterstützen und neue, spannende Perspektiven zu eröffnen. In Zusammenarbeit mit Kultur-Institutionen und im Dialog mit Künstlern schaffen wir Neues. Und inspirieren Zukunft – gemeinsam: Together, we're smarter.

NATIONAL IDENTITY AND MUSIC

Jean Sibelius' Symphony No. 2 D major, Op. 43

Jean Sibelius is considered a Finnish national composer — particularly because of his Second Symphony, which at times was also called the «Symphony of Independence» — a title with a poignant meaning in today's world.

In the sommer of 1900, Sibelius received a letter from his supporter Axel Carpelan saving: «You have been sitting at home for quite a while, Mr. Sibelius, it is high time for you to travel. You will spend the late autumn and winter in Italy.» Carpelan found a generous patron who agreed to finance Sibelius's stay in Italy. And so, at the end of January 1901, the composer travelled south with his family, where they rented a mountain villa near Rapallo (near Genoa). There, however, Sibelius does not seem to have found the ideal conditions to be productive enough, so he soon moved to Rome alone: «I must go to solitude and beauty.» In the Italian capital, Sibelius continued to write a composition he had begun in Rapallo, which at the time he still called an «orchestral fantasy»: the Second Symphony. When Sibelius returned to Finland a little later, he moved into a plain room at his mother-in-law's in Lohia (60 km west of Helsinki) to finish the piece. From December onwards, he visited it.

Originally, Sibelius had the idea of writing symphonic poems based on the story of «Don Juan» and Dante Alighieri's «Divine Comedy» (1307–1321), but he soon realised that his sketches

Instrumentation

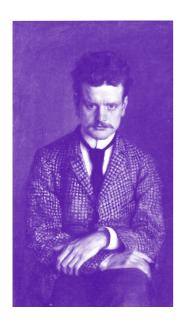
2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, strings

Date of composition 1901 to 1902, revised 1902 until 1903

First performance

08th March 1902 in Helsinki with the orchestra of the Helsinki Philharmonic Society conducted by the composer; revised version: 10th November 1903 in Stockholm conducted by Armas Järnefelt

Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich First performed on 14th March 1916 under Ferruccio Busoni, last performed in March 2015 under Lionel Bringuier



«A sumphonic poem the like of Sibelius' Second Symphony has never been heard before. it's something rarely heard in the genre of modern symphony. The more uou listen to this brilliant work, the more powerful its contours seem, the deeper its soul appears and the more striking become the clues which hint at an understanding of this composition.»

Comment of critic Karl Flodin after the premiere of Sibelius' Second Symphony had the potential for a new symphony. At that moment, he felt «as if God the Father had thrown down mosaic pieces from the floor of the heavens and asked me to put them back as they were». There are no (more) indications in the completed Second Symphony of any programmatic ideas or nonmusical references explicitly arising from the composition. However, Sibelius wrote the composition just at a time when his country was fighting against the «Russification» by Nicholas II of Russia, who had imposed sanctions against the Finnish language and culture. Thus his composition, in which Sibelius broke with Russian musical traditions for the first time, gave the people new hope in the midst of political chaos. After its premiere on the 8th of March 1902 with the orchestra of the Helsinki Philharmonic Society, it therefore became a symbol of Finnish self-determination – and Sibelius a national composer. Robert Kajanus, founder and conductor of the ensemble, summed up the meaning of Sibelius' Symphony No. 2: «The Andante is like a shattering protest against all the injustice that threatens to tear the light from the sun in our time [...]. [The Scherzo] gives the appearance of rapid preparation [...]. [The Finale] comes to a head in a triumphant ending that awakens in the listener an idea of bright and comforting prospects for the future.» However, inventing a «Finnish tone» was alien to Sibelius. which is why he did not incorporate any folklore into his music.

After Finland's independence in 1917, the symphony and other compositions by Sibelius were regarded as an expression of a love for nature. Even if Sibelius wanted to write «absolute music» – his symphonies were «conceived and elaborated as an expression of music, without any literary basis» – they nevertheless breathe the spirit of the Finnish nation. Not least for this reason, the Second Symphony ultimately reflects today's global political situation, which is a particular challenge for Finland.

Text: Franziska Gallusser



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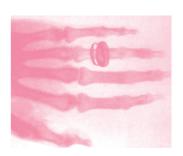


Jetzt unseren Testamentratgeber bestellen: www.tonhalle-continuo.ch/testamentratgeber

Travel in Time

The Tonhalle Zürich experienced four structural milestones: 1895, 1939, 1985 and 2021. On the occasion of last year's reopening, we take a closer look at world events during these years.

1895 the New Tonhalle on the shores of Lake Zurich is completed. As a «permanent temple of art» it replaces the Old Tonhalle in the Kornhaus at the Sechseläutenplatz.





Musik

Jean Sibelius completes his symphonic poem «Lemminkäinen Suite», which could well be described as his Symphony No. 0. In the same year, Antonín Dvořák ends his stay in the USA.

Science

Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen discovers the X-rays by chance.

Research

Polar explorer Carsten Egeberg Borchgrevink is the first person to set foot on the Antarctic mainland.



The world's first film screening in front of a paying audience takes place in Paris. A version of the 50-second film «La Sortie de l'Usine Lumière à Lyon» is shown.

Traffic

Film

The world's first bus line begins operation in North Rhine-Westphalia. A 5 hp petrol-powered bus built by Carl Benz is used.



Literature

Theodor Fontane publishes the last three episodes of his novel «Effi Briest».

PAAVO JÄRVI

When his native city Tallinn was still part of the Soviet Union. Paavo Järvi studied percussion and conducting there. But his way into the world was predetermined. His father, Neeme Järvi, who is also a conductor, emigrated to the United States with the whole family in 1980. In Los Angeles Paavo Järvi continued his studies with Leonard Bernstein, among others. In 2001 he became principal conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, with which he still maintains connections. This was the first of several important international posts: the USA was followed by Germany, France and Japan. Just as he maintains a strong bond with these orchestras, he also cultivates exchanges with his native country, Estonia. He supports and promotes Estonian composers. In 2011, along with his father Neeme Järvi, he founded the Pärnu Music Festival and the Järvi Academy, which provides a direct line from Zurich to Pärnu through the Conductors' Academy.

Paavo Järvi appears as a guest conductor with orchestras such as the Berliner Philharmoniker and the New York Philharmonic, and has been chief conductor of the NHK Symphony Orchestra (Tokyo) since 2015. He is also artistic director of both the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and the Estonian Festival Orchestra, which he founded in 2011 as the resident ensemble of the Pärnu Music festival. He was chief conductor and artistic director of the Orchestre de Paris until 2016. As an Estonian citizen he is conductor laureate of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony (hr-Sinfonieorchester) and music director laureate of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

In 2010 he received several awards for his Beethoven cycle and in 2019 he was named conductor of the year with the Opus Klassik Award. The new stimuli he has brought to Zurich are documented in his first joint recording projects with his orchestra, first Messiaen and now Tchaikovsky. Paavo Järvi took up his position as music director of the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich in the 2019/20 season.

paavojarvi.com

Paavo Järvi with the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich

Paavo Järvi conducted the
Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich for
the first time in July 2009, conducting Schumann's «Manfred»
Overture, Mendelssohn's Violin
Concerto (with Janine Jansen
as soloist) and his Symphony
No. 3 «Scottish». Last week he
conducted compositions of John
Adams und Mendelssohn's Violin
Concerto (with Leonidas Kavakos
as soloist).



Music Director Paavo Järvi conducts the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich:

Sat 09th Apr 2022

Conductors' Academy Abschlusskonzert

Wed 15th-Fri 17th Jun 2022

Orchesterkonzert

Wed 22nd / Thu 23rd Jun 2022

Konzerte des Freundeskreises

Sa 25th Jun 2022

Orff «Carmina Burana»

TONHALLE-ORCHESTER ZÜRICH

Classical music from Messiaen to Mozart: That is the passion of the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich – and has been since 1868. When it performs under the direction of Paavo Järvi, a special energy is generated, because no concert is like the previous one. The orchestra loves the inspiring energy it receives from its guest conductors and enjoys being challenged by internationally acclaimed soloists.

Along with its audience, the orchestra maintains a lively curiosity for unknown masterpieces and newly commissioned works. Founded by musicians from Zurich, it proclaims its musical home in its name and carries its excellent reputation around the world by means of tours and recordings.

In the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, some 100 musicians play around fifty different programmes in over 100 concerts per season. The orchestra brings together musicians from twenty nations. Guest appearances have taken it to 100 cities in more than thirty countries. In addition to the orchestral projects, the musicians also create their own chamber music series and perform as soloists in a series specifically dedicated to them.

The Music Director Paavo Järvi is the eleventh principal conductor of the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich; David Zinman is its conductor emeritus.

The orchestra has released more than forty recordings on CD, including complete cycles of the symphonies of Beethoven, Mahler, Brahms and Schubert. Its first recording with Paavo Järvi was devoted to orchestral works by Olivier Messiaen and was awarded the Diapason d'Or in 2019. This was followed by recordings of all of Tchaikovsky's symphonies and other orchestral works; the first release with the Fifth Symphony was awarded the Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik 2020 and the Diapason d'Or 2021.

www.tonhalle-orchester.ch



Foto: Gaëtan Bally

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