

Helsinki, 6 August 2015

Dear Sirs,

I am the Honorary Artistic Director of the HEAR NOW Festival of New Music by Contemporary Los Angeles Composers.

It is from my belief in the worthiness and necessity of the HEAR NOW Festival that I accepted the request to fill this honorary position.

During my seventeen years as Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, I wanted to reach out to, get involved with and bring to light the amazingly talented composers of concert music living and working in Los Angeles. In retrospect I feel that there is so much more to do, and I want to continue supporting the new music creators in the Southland especially since I moved back to LA with my family last year from London.

When--through Hugh Levick and my former colleague, William Kraft-- I learned of the HEAR NOW Festival, I immediately offered to lend whatever support I could.

Since 2012 I have spoken at three of the HEAR NOW fundraisers. In fact, at the 2015 fundraiser, my cello solo, 'knock. breath. shine.' had its Los Angeles premier.

My composition, PRELUDES, for piano solo, was presented at HEAR NOW 2011, and my wind quintet, MEMORIA, was part of the program in 2014.

I have also offered to conduct a piece at one of the future festivals.

I give my full support to all of the HEAR NOW endeavors, and I believe their request for a grant to extend the reach of the festival to other areas in Los Angeles County will significantly benefit both Los Angeles composers and the Los Angeles music community.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Esa-Pekka Salonen', with a stylized initial 'EP' on the left.

Esa-Pekka Salonen

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