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COLBURN SCHOOL ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL CLASS OF SALONEN FELLOWS

(Thursday, May 16, Los Angeles) – Sel Kardan, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Colburn School, and Esa-Pekka Salonen, Colburn School faculty, are pleased to announce the inaugural class of Salonen Fellows in the Conservatory’s new Negaunee Conducting Program. British conductor and pianist [Angus Webster](#) and Finnish-British conductor [Ross Jamie Collins](#) were selected from more than 115 applicants from throughout the world. They will enroll in the Colburn School’s Conservatory of Music and join the [Colburn Artists](#) roster, beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year. Admission to the School’s Conservatory of Music is extremely selective, with a current acceptance rate of 7.7%.

Salonen joined the Colburn School faculty in fall 2018 to lead and develop the Negaunee Conducting Program, a course of study in the school’s Conservatory of Music for a small, select group of aspiring young conductors. Known as Salonen Fellows, these students will develop their craft and nurture their talent through personal mentorship. In keeping with the Colburn School Conservatory model, students will receive full scholarship to cover tuition, room, and board. At both the Colburn School and with the Philharmonia Orchestra, where Salonen serves as Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor, the Salonen Fellows will gain significant real-world podium experience in Los Angeles and throughout the world.

“I’m very proud to welcome Angus Webster and Ross Collins to the Negaunee Conducting Program as the first class of Fellows,” said Salonen. “Both showed great talent and openness, as well as a real ability to communicate with the musicians in a natural way. This program—a special collaboration between the Colburn School and Philharmonia—realizes a long-held personal desire to mentor young conductors during this important phase in their careers.”

“We are thrilled to officially launch the Negaunee Conducting Program with its inaugural class of Fellows,” said Kardan. “In the tradition of the Colburn School’s personalized approach to learning, the Fellows will have the unprecedented opportunity to nurture their craft under the visionary guidance of Esa-Pekka Salonen, and with the Philharmonia Orchestra. We look forward to watching Angus and Ross continue their artistic growth as we embark on this international collaboration with

the Philharmonia. We are deeply grateful to the Negaunee Foundation for their leadership support to establish this groundbreaking program.”

Together, the Colburn School and Philharmonia Orchestra will establish public opportunities for the Salonen Fellows to conduct the world-class Philharmonia in both its UK residency series and designated tour dates. The Fellows will have the opportunity to collaborate with other young musicians on the Philharmonia’s Emerging Artists program, designed to connect young artists to the wider life of the Philharmonia; work with Philharmonia’s management to develop and produce Salonen’s flagship projects; and serve as assistant conductors to Salonen for his engagements with the Philharmonia, other orchestras, opera houses, tours, and festivals.

Throughout the program, the Fellows will study with Salonen at the Colburn School and serve as preparatory conductors for the flagship Colburn Orchestra. They will also conduct the Zipper Outreach Orchestra, Colburn’s performing ensemble for its community engagement activities, and the Concerto Forum Showcase, an annual public concert that features soloists from the Conservatory of Music taking place in January 2020. Salonen will also coach Conservatory students preparing for orchestral auditions and will regularly conduct the Colburn Orchestra as part of its annual performance series. The conducting program is made possible by the Negaunee Foundation, created in 1987 to celebrate and support the arts and cultural institutions.

Angus Webster and Ross Collins will also join the roster of Colburn Artists, a unique in-house professional management program for Colburn students on the cusp of professional careers. Created in order to provide guidance and support during the critical transition from studying to touring, the Colburn Artists program is designed to prepare students to work with industry leaders and artist managers. In a supportive atmosphere linked closely with their individual performance studies, they receive personalized career advice and training, including guidance on building relationships with presenters, orchestras, and professional musicians; developing repertoire; interview preparation; and creating a professional image and online presence.

Meet the Fellows:

Angus Webster

Praised by orchestras for his inspiring musicianship, British conductor and pianist Angus Webster is one of the most promising young musicians of his generation. In 2018, Angus was awarded both joint top prize and the orchestra prize at the Jorma Panula international conducting competition in Finland.

Born in 1999, Angus spent his childhood in Cornwall and began his musical studies aged six with piano lessons from Elena Needham. Aged nine, he started producing and presenting a classical music programme live on local radio in Cornwall and only three years later, Angus made his conducting début with Cornwall Youth Orchestra. He subsequently became their principal conductor, and together they went on to receive national acclaim and performed at many prestigious venues, including Birmingham Symphony Hall and the Royal Albert Hall in London.

Angus is also a passionate chamber musician and enjoys collaborating as a pianist with many outstanding young musicians from around the world. He has studied piano with Alasdair Beatson at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, viola with Tim Boulton, conducting with Patrick Bailey, and chamber music with Ferenc Rados and Rita Wagner at the International Musicians Seminar, Prussia Cove.

Ross Jamie Collins

Ross Jamie Collins is a young Finnish-British conductor who presently studies with Jorma Panula at the Panula Academy in Finland. In 2018 he was awarded Third Prize in the VII International Jorma Panula Conducting Competition, and in 2019 he makes his debuts with the South Denmark Philharmonic and the Kirkkonummi Chamber Orchestra. Born in 2001 in Nottingham, United Kingdom, Ross has been living in Helsinki, Finland since 2008 where he began conducting studies at the age of 14 with Klaus Mäkelä. In 2017 he founded his own orchestra, named Symphony Orchestra ROSSO, and conducted a full symphony concert at the age of 15.

Supported by a scholarship from The Finnish Cultural Foundation, Ross has participated in numerous international conducting masterclasses and has had experience conducting the Kuopio Symphony Orchestra, Vaasa City Orchestra, Sinfonietta Cracovia, MAV Symphony Orchestra, Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic Orchestra, Lappeenranta City Orchestra, St. Michel Strings and The Camerata Antonio Soler. He also works as an assistant conductor of the Lauttasaari Symphony Orchestra.

In 2019, Ross will graduate from the Sibelius-lukio High School, where he is part of the award-winning Chamber Choir and the band 'Beyond The Oceans' in which he plays the keyboard. He began his musical studies playing piano, violin, cello and French horn, and since 2014 he has concentrated his instrumental training in singing. As a baritone he is currently studying with Mervi Sipola-Maliniemi.

Upcoming Salonen Fellow Engagements:

February 15, 2020

Philharmonia Orchestra

Bedford Corn Exchange

Bedford, England

Program to include:

WALTON Viola Concerto
 Timothy Ridout, soloist
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 3

February 16, 2020

Philharmonia Orchestra

Marlowe Theatre

Canterbury, England

Program to include:

WALTON Viola Concerto
 Timothy Ridout, soloist
BRAHMS Symphony No. 2

About Esa-Pekka Salonen

Esa-Pekka Salonen's restless innovation drives him constantly to reposition classical music in the 21st century. He is known as both a composer and conductor and is currently the Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor for the Philharmonia Orchestra and the Conductor Laureate for the LA Philharmonic, where he was Music Director from 1992 until 2009. He is also Artist in Association at the Finnish National Opera and Ballet, where he will conduct his first full *Ring* cycle in future seasons and *Pelléas et Mélisande* this season. In addition, Salonen co-founded the annual Baltic Sea festival, serving as Artistic Director from 2003 to 2018.

About the Colburn School

The Colburn School comprises four academic units united by a single philosophy: that all who desire to study music and dance should have access to top-level instruction.

Units of the School are:

- the degree- and diploma-granting Conservatory of Music, a preeminent training ground for professional musicians
- The Music Academy, a pre-college program preparing musicians to study at top conservatories
- The Trudl Zipper Dance Institute, a comprehensive dance program including the elite pre-professional Dance Academy
- The Community School of Performing Arts, offering a graded curriculum of private lessons and group instruction in music performance, appreciation, and theory for everyone, from the youngest children to adults

Together, these units provide performing arts instruction to more than 2,000 students from around the world, with a renowned artist faculty who serve as invaluable mentors guiding the students' artistic development. A robust community engagement program delivers performing arts education to low-income students in the surrounding areas. In addition, Colburn offers over \$1.5 million in scholarships to Community School students each year. Located in downtown Los Angeles, the Colburn School's campus boasts state-of-the-art performance and rehearsal spaces. Each season, the school presents over 300 concerts and performances, many of which are free and open to the public, at its downtown home and throughout Southern California.

The Colburn School has selected Frank Gehry, the world-renowned Founder and Principal of Gehry Partners, to design a campus expansion adjacent to its existing facilities in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles. The project will add an 1100-seat concert hall—the Colburn School's first venue for full-scale orchestra performances—along with a 700-seat theater for dance and vocal performance, an outdoor performance venue, and a dance rehearsal center, providing unprecedented facilities in which students of the School can hone their artistry and perform. Yasuhisa Toyota of Nagata

Acoustics and Michael Ferguson, principal of TheatreDNA, are collaborating with Gehry on the building.

About the Philharmonia Orchestra

Led by its Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor Esa-Pekka Salonen, the Philharmonia creates thrilling performances in the concert hall and reaches new listeners and participants through audience development projects, digital technology, and a learning and participation programme. Based in London, with residencies throughout England, a thriving international touring schedule and global digital reach, the Philharmonia engages with a worldwide audience.

The Orchestra's home is Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, in the heart of London, where the Philharmonia has been resident since 1995 and presents a season of around 50 performances each year. Orchestral programming is complemented by series including *Philharmonia at the Movies*, *Music of Today*, the Philharmonia Chamber Players and an Insights programme.

Under Salonen and other key conductors, the Philharmonia has created a series of critically-acclaimed, visionary projects, distinctive for both their artistic scope and supporting live and digital content. Recent series include *City of Light: Paris 1900-1950* (2015) and *Stravinsky: Myths & Rituals* (2016), which won a South Bank Sky Arts Award. In 2019, Salonen presents *Weimar Berlin: Bittersweet Metropolis*, a celebration of the feverish creativity of the Weimar era through the prism of its music, drama, and film.

The Philharmonia is orchestra-in-residence at venues and festivals across England, and has a diverse UK touring programme that regularly takes the Orchestra to the BBC Proms, Edinburgh International Festival and St David's Hall in Cardiff. The Philharmonia's residencies are at Bedford Corn Exchange, De Montfort Hall in Leicester, The Marlowe in Canterbury, The Anvil in Basingstoke (where it is Orchestra in Partnership), the Three Choirs Festival in the west of England, and Garsington Opera.

At the heart of the Orchestra's residencies is an education programme that empowers people in every community to engage with, and participate in, orchestral music. Its flagship *Orchestra Unwrapped* project for schools encompasses concerts, in-school workshops and teacher training, delivered in partnership with Music Hubs; intergenerational creative music-making community project *Hear and Now* brings together people living with dementia and their carers with young musicians; and urban-classical project *Symphonize* engages vulnerable teenagers.

The Orchestra works with a wide range of higher education institutions across its residencies, including with its Strategic Partner in Leicester, De Montfort University, which brings a wealth of opportunities for students.

Please visit <https://www.philharmonia.co.uk/orchestra/about> for more information.

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