

**18.11. AT 20:00**  
**HELSINKI MUSIC CENTRE**

**JUKKA-PEKKA SARASTE**  
CONDUCTOR

**TUOMAS LEHTO**  
CELLO

**LOTTA EMANUELSSON**  
PRESENTER

Interview with Jukka-Pekka Saraste

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**Camille Saint-Saëns:**

*Cello Concerto No. 1 in A Minor, Op. 33*  
*Allegro non troppo – Allegretto con moto – Tempo primo*

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Interview with Tuomas Lehto

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**W. A. Mozart:**

*Symphony No. 39 in E-flat Major KV 543*

- 1. Adagio – Allegro*
- 2. Andante con moto*
- 3. Menuetto: Trio*
- 4. Allegro*

*No interval. The concert will end at about 21:15. Broadcast live on  
Yle Teema, Yle Radio 1 and Yle Arena.*

## CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS: CELLO CONCERTO NO. 1 IN A MINOR, OP. 33

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921) completed his first cello concerto in 1872. He had been one of the founders of a Société Nationale de Musique, helping to organise its concerts under the heading *Ars Gallica*. In his cello concerto he sought to draw attention to the merits of French music: rationalism, elegance and esprit.

The concerto is in a single movement but three distinct parts. It may also be understood as a broad application of sonata form. It begins with a brief chord on the orchestra that serves as the firing shot for the solo cello's theme. The minor key gives the opening part a fatalistic feel. The gentle second theme is elegiac, but the

soloist is always in the forefront. A neat transition leads to a stylish minuet in the nature of a pastiche that casts an air of nostalgia over this part. The orchestra carries the minuet theme along, with the cello adding some mini-cadenzas. The main theme of the first part returns at the end of this section and is eagerly taken up (Tempo 1). The drama familiar from the first part is contrasted with slower ideas (*Un peu moins vite*) in which the cello tests the emotional climate and the limits of its top register. The finale (*Molto allegro*) sweeps the concerto along to a happy end.

## W. A. MOZART: SYMPHONY NO. 39 IN E-FLAT MAJOR KV 543

The E-flat major symphony composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791) in summer 1788 is both rich and well-balanced. It was the first of his symphonies to use clarinets instead of oboes, thus producing a softer sound than before. Though basically a “traditional” symphony in the sense understood at the time, it contravenes the generic conventions in its material, dimensions and refinement.

The solemn introduction to the first movement creates a feeling of expectancy. The contrast with the jubilant *Allegro* that follows is restrained. The main section has lots of motifs, but the main theme sails smoothly through the thorough recapitulation.

The Rococo idyll of the slow, *Andante* movement is interspersed with episodes full of feeling in minor keys. The slow movements of Mozart's late instrumental works seem to have an underlying melancholy, but a new, more relaxed and personal view of mankind is here reflected in the rich instrumentation.

The brisk minuet is obviously danced far from court. The contrasting trio section, dominated by woodwinds, has a rustic ring to it, but as so often in his works, Mozart again plays with light and shadow. The strings' subtheme almost verges on the tragic, but ends on a dainty, coquettish note.

The finale is a brilliant conclusion to this optimistic work. Mozart combines sparkling comedy with clever counterpoint, and towards the end, he still has some surprises up his sleeve. The absence of a coda

(literally a “tail” section) to some extent leaves the finale open.

*Programme notes by Antti Häyrynen translated (abridged) by Susan Sinisalo*

## JUKKA-PEKKA SARASTE

Jukka-Pekka Saraste is one of the leading conductors of his generation: Chief Conductor of orchestras in Finland, other parts of Europe and North America, and a guest with many of the world's top ensembles.

Chief Conductor and now Conductor Laureate of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra 1987–2001, Saraste has also served as Principal Conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra (1987–1991), Music Director of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (1994–2001), Music Director and Chief Conductor of the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra (2006–2013 and later its first Conductor Laureate) and most recently Chief Conductor of the WDR Symphony Orchestra in Cologne (2010–2019).

Together with Esa-Pekka Salonen, Jukka-Pekka Saraste was one of the founders

of the *Avanti!* Chamber Orchestra in 1983. He was Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra 2002–2005 and Artistic Advisor of the Lahti Symphony Orchestra 2008–2011. He also founded the Finnish Chamber Orchestra and is still Artistic Advisor of this and its annual *Tammisaari Festival*.

Saraste has a repertoire extending from the Classical era through to the present day and has conducted a large number of premieres. His large discography includes the complete Beethoven and Brahms symphonies with the WDR Orchestra, and music by Bruckner, Mahler, Stravinsky, Schönberg and others. Topping the list of his other projects are his complete recordings of the Sibelius and Nielsen symphonies with the *FRSO*.

## TUOMAS LEHTO

Tuomas Lehto can frequently be heard in solo and chamber repertoire, and at many festivals. First solo cellist in the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, he is also a member of the New Helsinki Quartet and the Total Cello Ensemble, and Artistic Director of the *KuruFest* chamber music festival in his native Finland.

Having taken his first cello lessons when he was three, Tuomas entered the

Sibelius Academy in 2000 and there studied with Hannu Kiiski, Marko Ylönen and Jan-Erik Gustafsson. He spent 2007–2008 in Stockholm as a pupil of Torleif Theodén. He has recorded for radio and disc both as a soloist and with various ensembles, has premiered a number of new works and teaches the cello at the Sibelius Academy.

# THE FINNISH RADIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra (FRSO) is the orchestra of the Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yle). Its mission is to produce and promote Finnish musical culture and its Chief Conductor as of autumn 2013 has been Hannu Lintu.

The Radio Orchestra of ten players founded in 1927 grew to symphony orchestra proportions in the 1960s. Its Chief Conductors have been Toivo Haapanen, Nils-Eric Fougstedt, Paavo Berglund, Okko Kamu, Leif Segerstam, Jukka-Pekka Saraste and Sakari Oramo, and taking over from Hannu Lintu in 2021 will be Nicholas Collon.

In addition to the great Classical-Romantic masterpieces, the latest contemporary music is a major item in the repertoire of the FRSO, which each year premieres a number of Yle commissions. Another of the orchestra's tasks is to record all Finnish orchestral music for the Yle archive.

The FRSO has recorded works by Mahler, Bartók, Sibelius, Hakola, Lindberg, Saariaho, Sallinen, Kaipainen, Kokkonen and others. It has twice won a Gramophone Award: for its disc of Lindberg's Clarinet Concerto in 2006 and of Bartók Violin Concertos in 2018. Other distinctions have included BBC Music Magazine, Académie Charles Cros and MIDEM Classical awards. Its disc of tone poems and songs by Sibelius won an International Classical Music Award (ICMA) in 2018, and it has been the recipient of a Finnish EMMA award in 2016 and 2019.

The FRSO regularly tours to all parts of the world. During the 2020/2021 season its schedule will include a tour to Spain under Hannu Lintu.

The FRSO concerts are broadcast live on the Yle Arena and Radio 1 channels and are recorded and shown later on Yle Teema and TV 1.