

Pärnu Music Festival – live and online



Hard to believe it, but from tomorrow evening onwards, I'll be sitting socially distanced in the concert hall of Estonia's "summer capital" by the sea listening to a real orchestra, one of the world's best for the short time it gathers together every year ([full programme here](#)). The Estonian Festival Orchestra (**pictured above** by Kaupo Kikkas) won't have all of its key players – Czech Philharmonic harpist Jana Boušková and Russian National Orchestra trumpeter Vladislav Lavrik, among others – don't have permission to head to Pärnu, but the Brits were given the go-ahead last week, so that also means top clarinettist Matthew Hunt, a real star of the set-up, and Alec Frank-Gemmill, now principal horn of the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra but fortunately in the UK and not Sweden at the necessary time (Swedish infection rates are still high, though not deaths).

You can watch the results of Paavo Järvi's magnificent, if this year much altered, programming [here for a modest seven euros per concert](#). Believe me, it's worth it. The chamber concert (Monday evening) is always a highlight, with ensembles of generals culminating in a performance of the Mendelssohn Octet. Great Estonian symphonist Lepo Sumera also features, and the EFO's second programme includes maverick Olli Mustonen in Beethoven's own adaptation of his Violin Concerto for piano and orchestra (the first-movement cadenza with timpani is a stunner). I'll report back next weekend.