**EESTI RIIKLIK SÜMFOONIAORKESTER (ERSO)** on elav ja mitmekülgne orkester, kes püüdleb alati tipptaseme poole. Eesti vanimal ja mainekaimal regulaarselt tegutseval sümfooniaorkestril täitub sel hooajal 98. tegevusaasta. ERSO ajalugu ulatub aastasse 1926 ning sarnaselt paljude omataolistega maailmas on see seotud rahvusliku ringhäälingu sünni ja arenguga. Alates hooajast 2020/2021 on enam kui 100-liikmelise orkestri peadirigent ja kunstiline juht Olari Elts. Neeme Järvi jätkab koostööd ERSOga eluaegse aupeadirigendina, orkestri kunstiline nõustaja on Paavo Järvi, varasemad peadirigendid on olnud Olav Roots, Paul Karp, Roman Matsov, Neeme Järvi, Peeter Lilje, Leo Krämer, Arvo Volmer, Nikolai Aleksejev ja taas Neeme Järvi.

ERSO on käinud arvukatel turneedel ning osalenud mainekatel rahvusvahelistel muusikafestivalidel. 2023. aasta mais toimus orkestri esimene kontserdireis Suurbritanniasse, kus kahe nädala jooksul anti 11 kontserti. 2022. aastal esineti Olari Eltsi juhatusel Nürnbergis, Münchenis ja Pariisis. 2021. aasta novembri lõpus osalesid ERSO ja Elts Poolas rahvusvahelisel Kesk- ja Ida-Euroopa muusikafestivalil „Eufonie“. 2019. aastal avasid ERSO ja Neeme Järvi Prantsuse Raadio maineka Montpellier’ muusikafestivali ning orkester käis Kesk-Euroopa turneel, kus Neeme Järvi juhatusel esineti Viini Musikvereini kuldses saalis, Linzi Brucknerhausi suures saalis, Praha Rudolfinumi Dvořáki saalis ja Bregenzi Bodensee saalis ning Mihhail Gertsi juhatusel Saksamaal Erlangenis ja Viersenis. Veel on esinetud sellistel maailmalavadel nagu Berliini Konzerthaus, New Yorgi Avery Fisher Hall (praeguse nimetusega David Geffen Hall), Peterburi filharmoonia suur saal ja Maria Teatri kontserdisaal, Kölni filharmoonia, Helsingi Musiikkitalo, Stockholmi Berwaldhallen jt.

ERSO plaadistuste kõrget kvaliteeti on esile tõstetud mainekates klassikalise muusika ajakirjades ning sellega on kaasnenud mitmed tunnustused, millest olulisim on Eesti esimene Grammy (2004, dirigent Paavo Järvi), värskeimad aga aasta klassikaalbumi tiitel 2020. aastal Eesti muusikaauhindade jagamisel Elleri sümfooniliste poeemide teise plaadi eest (dirigent Olari Elts) ning kultuurkapitali helikunsti sihtkapitali aastapreemia ERSO-le ja Olari Eltsile seniste Elleri muusika salvestiste eest. Suurepärane koostöö on ERSO-l selliste mainekate plaadifirmadega nagu Chandos, BIS, Onyx, samuti Ondine, ERP jt.

Lisaks kohalikele raadio- ja telekanalitele on ERSO kontserte üle kandnud Mezzo ja medici.tv ning EBU vahendusel on need jõudnud paljudesse Euroopa raadiojaamadesse. 2020. aastal alustas tegevust ERSO TV (erso.tv), kus saab vaadata kõiki orkestri *live*-kontserte ning juba toimunud esinemisi.

**The Estonian National Symphony Orchestra (Eesti Riiklik Sümfooniaorkester, ERSO)** – a vivid and versatile orchestra who’s always striving towards excellence. The unique position in the intersection of cultures brings together Nordic, Western and Russian musical traditions. Celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2026, ERSO has become the most prominent orchestral ambassador of Estonia abroad, powerfully increasing its international scope particularly in recent decades. Since the 2020/21 season, its Chief Conductor and Artistic Director is Olari Elts. Neeme Järvi, the longest-serving chief conductor of the ERSO, continues to cooperate with the orchestra as an Honorary Artistic Director for Life and the Artistic Adviser of the orchestra is Paavo Järvi.

The orchestra performs with renowned conductors and soloists from around the world, including, of course, most prominent Estonian musicians. ERSO’s CDs demonstrate a quality that has been recognised by several renowned music magazines and the orchestra has won several prizes, including a Grammy Award for the recording of cantatas by Sibelius. Its home venue is the Estonia Concert Hall in Tallinn and it has dazzled the world with numerous tours and participated in reputable international music festivals. They have played in prestigious venues such as the Konzerthaus Berlin, Musikverein in Vienna, Rudolfinum in Prague, Brucknerhaus in Linz, the Avery Fisher Hall (current David Geffen Hall) in New York, the Grand Hall of Saint Petersburg Philharmonia and the Concert Hall of the Mariinsky Theatre, the Kölner Philharmonie, the Helsinki Music Centre, Berwaldhallen in Stockholm, and many more. Some of the festivals ERSO has attended include the Festival Radio France Occitanie Montpellier with Neeme Järvi and the Eufonie International Festival of Central and Eastern Europe in Warsaw under the baton of Olari Elts. Some of the highlights of the previous seasons include a concert tour with Olari Elts and violinist Daniel Lozakovich, which took the orchestra to Isarphilarmonie in Munich, La Seine Musicale in Paris and Meistersingerhalle in Nuremberg. In May 2023, another successful concert tour took the orchestra to Great Britain, where 11 concerts were given with pianist Barry Douglas under the baton of Olari Elts.

The orchestra has enjoyed fruitful cooperation with highly acclaimed record companies such as Chandos, BIS, and Onyx, and in the past also with Alba Records, Harmonia Mundi, and Melodiya. In addition to local radio and television channels, ERSO’s concerts have been broadcasted by Mezzo, medici.tv and they have also reached many radio listeners via the EBU. In 2020, the orchestra launched its own channel – erso.tv.

As for conductors and soloists, ERSO is fortunate to perform with the very best from all around the world, including front-rank Estonian musicians. Commanding a repertoire that ranges from the Baroque period to the present time, the ERSO has had the honour to premiere symphonic pieces by almost every Estonian composer, including Arvo Pärt, Erkki-Sven Tüür, Jüri Reinvere, and Eduard Tubin.