Memories of the Future

We humans are fascinating creatures, for not only have we created different concepts of time, but can also neurologically travel in time, stretching from our now–moment to the past and even to the future. The more we can remember of our past, the more we can anticipate the coming. Without our memories we would be in darkness, lacking meaning and persona.

Music as an artform is bound to the linear concept of time; we can only experience the piece during the period of time it lasts. In this new piece we would like to give a different experience to the audience, bend the linear perception of time, to give them a chance to go back, choose the order of the composition’s parts or let the parts blend together. To make this possible we hope that the piece might react to the person experiencing it.

The working title is “Memories of the Future”, and who could be more important and interesting as a main character, whose future memories would we rather experience actualized than a young girl’s? What kind of cities did she live in, what kind of birds flew past her window when she woke up in her room? Imagine the most interesting things that happen to the future girl; the patterns of signals that formed the memories. Perhaps she collected and left us a certain memory on purpose to visit in.

No specific platform for this work has yet been determined. It could be an installation in a space in which several people can roam, it could be a wall that reacts to the person experiencing the piece, or it could be experienced with a virtual reality headset, or something completely different. Something your team works with, and is excited about!

Musically this new composition by Esa–Pekka Salonen will consist of four parts. For inspiration and experimentation with Esa–Pekka's material, your team will have music from two of his previous works to use: Sappho Songs and Karawane.