Paul Mägi founded the Estonian Radio Chamber Orchestra in 1978 and was also the orchestra's artistic director and chief conductor. In 1984-1991, he worked in the Estonian National Opera as conductor. He has worked as guest conductor in the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. During the years 1990-1994, he was the chief conductor and artistic director of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra. He has given concerts with the Latvian Symphony Orchestra in famous concert halls around Europe and participated many international festivals - Concertgebow, Fetes Musicales en Touraine, Chichester Festivities, Festival Costa do Estoril etc. In 1995-2002, he was the musical director and chief conductor of the Estonian National Opera.

Since 2004 he worked with the Uppsala Chamber Orchestra as artistic director and chief conductor. In 2017 was Maestro Mägi appointed honorary conductor of the orchestra. Since September 2011 he is the artistic director of the Vanemuine Theatre and also chief conductor. He has conducted concerts all over Europe and the US (with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, the Equador National Symphony Orchestra, the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Stockholm Royal Philharmonic, the Göteborg Symphony Orchestra, the Malmö Symphony Orchestra etc).

International opera productions: Rossini's "The Italian Girl in Algiers", Verdi's "Il trovatore", Strauss' "The Bat in Finland", Puccini's "Suor Angelica" and "Gianni Schicchi" in Sweden, Dargomyshki's "Mermaid" in the Wexford festival in Ireland, Bizet's "Carmen" in Belgium and Cyprus, Puccini's "La Bohème" in the Swedish Royal Opera, Verdi's "Rigoletto" in the Malmö Opera and Finnish National Opera, Reinvere's "Purge", Massenet's "Thaïs", Puccini's "Madama Butterfly" and Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman" in Finnish National Opera, Mussorgsky's "Boris Godunov" in the Nantes Opera, with the Moscow "Helikon" opera in the Salzburg Festspielhaus and Champs-Elyseés Theatre in Paris. In the Estonian National Opera: Puccini's "La Bohème", "Suor Angelica", Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro", Verdi's "Nabucco", "La traviata", "Don Carlo" and "Ernani", Bizet' "Carmen", Dargomyshki's "Mermaid", Nicolai's "The Merry Wives of Windsor", Strauss' "Viennese Blood", "The Bat", "A Night in Venice", Lehar's "Merry Widow", Tamberg's "Cyrano de Bergerac", Tubin's "Womble" Kangro's "Heart", R. Strauss' "Salomé", Mussorgsky's "Boris Godunov", Eespere's "Gourmand" etc. Has staged at Vanemuine: Verdi's "Troubadour", Massenet's "Werther", Lehár's "Merry Widow" and Tchaikovsky's "Onegin", Tauno Aints's "Rehepapp", Eduard Tubin's "The Parson of Reigi", Bizet's "Carmen", Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor", Märt-Matis Lill's "Into the Fire", Strauss's "Viennese Blood", Puccini's "Madama Butterfly". Paul Mägi is a renowed jazz violinist who has performed in festivals in Hungary, Bulgaria, Cuba, Finland, Germany, Ireland, England, the USA etc. He has performed together with the BBC and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Paul Mägi is professor of orchestra conducting in the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre and guest professor in the Royal College of Music, Stockholm In 2013 he was elected to the Royal Swedish Music Academy.