

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Join Paddington Bear and Peter & the Wolf for an “un-bear-lievable” series of adventures in Hong Kong!
Weekend concerts help kids learn about the orchestra and instruments as members of the HK Phil present a musical carnival of animals

Paddington Bear™ Concert (28 September, 3PM & 8PM)
Peter & the Wolf Fantasia (12 October, 3PM & 8PM)

[23 September 2019, Hong Kong] It's time for adventure! The **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)**'s hugely popular MUSIC FOR KIDS series brings the world of classical music to families in a relaxed and fun-filled atmosphere over two weekends: **Paddington Bear™ Concert (28 September, Saturday, 3PM & 8PM)** and **Peter & the Wolf Fantasia (12 October, Saturday, 3PM & 8PM)**. Suitable for ages three and up, this could be a wonderful choice for your child's very first concert. Act now to embark on this exciting journey with your family! From as little as HK\$90, your kids can enjoy an extraordinary concert!

Bring along your teddy bears to join Paddington™ as he goes to his first symphony concert and joins the HK Phil, conductor [Ben Palmer](#) and special guest narrator [Eric Monson](#) on **28 September (Saturday)** to embark on a musical adventure! Michael Bond's charming stories about a bear, set to a lovely musical score by Herbert Chappell, now come to life in the **Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall** with storytelling and a live orchestra.

This enchanting children's concert will appeal to everyone who loves animals. Poulenc's delightful ballet score *Les Animaux modèles* brings a whole host of animals to vivid musical life; Copland's folk-like *The Red Pony Suite: Happy Ending* illustrates the beauty of living out in the open country with a story about a young boy named Jody and his small pony.

In another weekend programme, on **12 October (Saturday)** in the **Tuen Mun Town Hall Auditorium**, conductor [Jing Huan](#) and guest Cantonese narrator [Ah Tsui](#) continue with the theme of a carnival of the animals as they feature the wonderful children's classic *Peter & the Wolf* by the Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev. This piece tells the story of how Peter disobeyed his grandfather and ventured out into the forest. The adventures he and his animal companions have catching a wolf are immortalised in Prokofiev's brilliant piece for narrator and orchestra.

The same programme brings you the experience of some of classical music's most famous and enduring moments in Mozart's playful Divertimento in D, K. 136 (3rd movement) and Ravel's most famous work for children, the Suite from *Ma mère l'Oye (Mother Goose)*.

A chance to read stories in a musical way with the HK Phil over two weekends!

Music for Kids: Paddington Bear™ Concert will be held on **28 September (Sat), 3PM & 8PM** in the **Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall**. Tickets are HK\$420, \$360, \$280, or \$180 and are available at [URBTIX](#).

Music for Kids: Peter & the Wolf Fantasia will be held on **12 October (Sat), 3PM & 8PM** in the **Tuen Mun Town Hall Auditorium**. Tickets are HK\$360, \$280, \$220, or \$180 and are available at [URBTIX](#).

For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Artists (Music for Kids: Paddington Bear™ Concert)

Ben Palmer, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

Ben Palmer is Chief Conductor of the Deutsche Philharmonie Merck and Founder and Artistic Director of Covent Garden Sinfonia. Recent guest conducting engagements include with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Hallé, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Orchestra of Welsh National Opera, NDR Radiophilharmonie, Deutsches Kammerorchester Berlin, Sinfonietta de Lausanne, St Petersburg Symphony Orchestra and Cinematic Sinfonia.

Eric Monson, English narration [\[full biography\]](#)

American baritone Eric Monson has been performing around the world for over 25 years. In 1998, after several years of producing choir festivals at Disney parks and in cities around the globe, Monson founded the Metro Vocal Group. The members of the Group have been performing internationally ever since and are known for their ability to sing in both Cantonese and Mandarin. They have appeared on Hunan TV and CCTV, as well as in Tokyo and at Hong Kong Disney, and have collaborated with such artists as G.E.M., Hacken Lee and Hanjin Tan.

Artists (Music for Kids: Peter & the Wolf Fantasia)

Jing Huan, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

Jian Huan currently serves as the Principal Conductor of the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra (GSO) and Music Director of the Guangzhou Symphony Youth Orchestra (GSYO). In 2012, she was one of two prizewinners at the inaugural Li Delun National Conducting Competition in Qingdao, China. She was Assistant Conductor of the São Paulo State Symphony's 2013 music season. Jing has conducted the GSO in Italy and the UK. She also led the GSYO on its travels to Germany, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, France, the Czech Republic, Italy and Japan on cultural exchange programmes.

Ah Tsui, Cantonese narration [\[full biography\]](#)

Ah Tsui is a stage actor, an illustrator, designer and all-in-one creator. He started performing in 1997 and has participated in more than 300 stage performances. His latest performances include *Yes, I do...?!*, *Table for Two* and *Those Were the Days*. The *Sing-a-long* music theatre series, which featured Charlene Choi, Mag Lam and Danny So Yiu Chung, has appeared in re-runs again and again. He also participated in the *Shall we Ha* series (annual retrospective comedies) that has been running for 10 consecutive years, in more than 200 performances.

MUSIC FOR KIDS SERIES: PADDINGTON BEAR™ CONCERT

28 | 9 | 2019

SAT 3PM & 8PM

Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall

HK\$420 \$360 \$280 \$180

Tickets are now available at URBTIX

For ages 3 and up

Artists

[Ben Palmer](#)

conductor

[Eric Monson](#)

English narration

Click the thumbnails to download press images [Or hold Ctrl then click to open the file]



Ben Palmer

Photo Credit: Andy Staples Photography



Eric Monson

Photo Credit: King's
Production



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-Wai/HK Phil

Programme

Herbert CHAPPELL *Paddington Bear's First Concert*

POULENC *Les Animaux modèles Suite*

COPLAND *The Red Pony Suite: VI. Happy
Ending*

MUSIC FOR KIDS SERIES: PETER & THE WOLF FANTASIA

12 | 10 | 2019

SAT 3PM & 8PM

Tuen Mun Town Hall Auditorium

HK\$360 \$280 \$220 \$180

Tickets are now available at URBTIX

For ages 3 and above

Artists

[Jing Huan](#) conductor

[Ah Tsui](#) Cantonese narration

Click the thumbnails to download press images [Or hold Ctrl then click to open the file]



Jing Huan
Photo Credit: Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra



Ah Tsui



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-wai/HK Phil

Programme

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| MOZART | Divertimento in D, K. 136:
3 rd movement |
| RAVEL | Suite from <i>Ma mère l'Oye</i> (<i>Mother Goose</i>) |
| PROKOFIEV | <i>Peter and the Wolf</i> |

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

Principal Guest Conductor: Yu Long

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is recognised as Asia's foremost classical orchestra. Presenting more than 150 concerts over a 44-week season, the HK Phil attracts more than 200,000 music lovers annually. Recently, the HK Phil has been nominated for the prestigious UK classical music magazine *Gramophone's* 2019 Orchestra of the Year Award – the first orchestra in Asia to receive this nomination.

Jaap van Zweden, one of today's most sought-after conductors, has been the orchestra's Music Director since the 2012/13 concert season, a position he will continue to hold until at least 2022. Maestro van Zweden has also been Music Director of the New York Philharmonic since the 2018/19 season.

Yu Long has been Principal Guest Conductor since the 2015/16 season.

Under the dynamic leadership of Music Director Jaap van Zweden, the HK Phil has attained new heights of artistic excellence, garnering international critical acclaim.

Following on from the success of the European tour, which included a filmed concert from Vienna's Musikverein, the HK Phil has toured extensively across Mainland China. In 2017, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, and with support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, the orchestra performed in Seoul, Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne and at the Sydney Opera House.

Jaap, the HK Phil, a superb cast of soloists and a chorus successfully completed an epic four-year journey through Wagner's "Ring Cycle" in January 2018. These concert performances and live Naxos recordings have been enthusiastically received by audiences and praised by critics at home and abroad. The recording of *Götterdämmerung* was released in November 2018.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Joshua Bell, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, Matthias Goerne, Stephen Hough, Evgeny Kissin, Lang Lang, Yo-Yo Ma, Ning Feng, Leonard Slatkin and Yuja Wang.

The HK Phil promotes the work of Hong Kong and Chinese composers through an active commissioning programme and has released recordings on the Naxos label featuring Tan Dun and Bright Sheng, each conducting their own compositions. Its acclaimed education and community engagement programmes in schools and in hospital and outdoor settings bring music into the hearts of tens of thousands of children and families every year.

The Swire Group has been the Principal Patron of the HK Phil since 2006. Through this sponsorship, which is the largest in the orchestra's history, Swire endeavours to promote artistic excellence, foster access to classical music, stimulate cultural participation in Hong Kong, and enhance Hong Kong's reputation as one of the world's great cities.

Thanks to a significant subsidy from the Hong Kong Government and long-term funding from Principal Patron Swire, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and other supporters, the HK Phil now boasts a full-time annual schedule of core classical repertoire and innovative popular programming, extensive education and community programmes, and collaborations with, among others, Opera Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Arts Festival and the Hong Kong Ballet.

Originally called the Sino-British Orchestra, it was renamed the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra in 1957 and became fully professional in 1974. The HK Phil is a charitable organisation.

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and is Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.