

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The HK Phil Joins an All-Local Array of Composers, Musicians and Choirs to Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre **Bravo: Sounds of Hong Kong (1 & 2 November)**

[29 October 2019, Hong Kong] An all-local array of outstanding talent joins the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** in a programme of world premieres by four young Hong Kong composers alongside classical delights to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Two performances will take place at the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall** on **1 & 2 November**.

Under the baton of [Lio Kuokman](#), laureate at the Svetlanov International Conducting Competition in Paris, the HK Phil will open the concert with Shostakovich's exhilarating *Festive Overture*. Recently selected as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons 2019 in Hong Kong, soprano [Louise Kwong](#) will sing the hauntingly beautiful aria "Io son l'umile ancella" from Cilea's opera *Adriana Lecouvreur*, and the popular Neapolitan song "Non ti scordar di me". Joining them on stage will be the prizewinning [Duo Ping and Ting](#), playing Poulenc's high-spirited Concerto for Two Pianos.

In keeping with the programme's youthful theme, Brahms looks into the future with his magnificent "Song of Destiny", featuring the voices of our very own [Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus](#). [The Hong Kong Children's Choir](#), one of the best children's choirs in the world which celebrates its own 50th anniversary this year, concludes the programme with two endearing choral pieces arranged by local composer Wong Chun-wai.

This concert features world premieres by four Hong Kong composers [Ray Leung \(Chung-yin Leung\)](#), [Austin Yip](#), [Pui-shan Cheung](#) and [Joyce Tang](#) in anticipation of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth in 2020. This programme serves as a prelude to the HK Phil's upcoming "Beethoven 250th" concert series, which runs across this concert season and the next.

Opened on 8 November 1989, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre (HKCC) is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this November. As a Venue Partner of one of the city's prime performing arts venues, the HK Phil dedicates this programme presented only by artists and groups from Hong Kong, to continue the HK Phil's and also the HKCC's immense contribution to the artistic growth of Hong Kong.

Bravo: Sounds of Hong Kong will be held on **1 & 2 November (Fri & Sat) at 8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets are \$480, \$380, \$280 and \$180 and are available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Artists

Lio Kuokman, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

Currently the Music Director of the Hong Kong New Music Ensemble, Lio Kuokman is equally sought after as a conductor, pianist and chamber musician. He has served as Assistant Conductor to Yannick Nézet-Seguin at the Philadelphia Orchestra, the first Chinese conductor in this position in the history of the orchestra. Lio, the laureate at the Svetlanov International Conducting Competition in Paris, has worked with many leading orchestras around the world including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Radio France Philharmonic, Seoul Philharmonic and Danish National Symphony Orchestra.

Louise Kwong, soprano [\[full biography\]](#)

Louise Kwong was a soprano at the Young Artist Programme of Rome Opera House in Italy from 2018-19. She is a graduate of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Dutch National Opera Academy, the Conservatory of Amsterdam and the Royal College of Music of London. Her operatic roles include Cio-cio-san in *Madame Butterfly*, Liù in *Turandot*, Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, La Contessa in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*. In 2018, she sang Mimi in *La Bohème*, Micaëla in *Carmen* and The First Lady in *The Magic Flute* in Rome Opera House productions.

Duo Ping and Ting [\[full biography\]](#)

The twin sisters Lok Ping and Lok Ting Chau have earned wide recognition for their musicality and the fascinating matches of sound. The duo was top prize winners of the 64th ARD International Music Competition in Munich, the Dranoff International Two Pianos Competition, the Fourth International Piano Duo Competition, Bialystok, the Fourth San Marino International Piano Duo Competition and Grieg À Deux International Two Piano Competition in Oslo. Their performance was exalted by the *South German Post*: "Duo Ping & Ting reacted precisely and harmonically together with a matching of sound in an unbelievable manner."

The Hong Kong Children's Choir [\[full biography\]](#)

Founded in 1969 with only 39 members, the Hong Kong Children's Choir is now the biggest choir in the world with over 5,000 boys and girls receiving choral, dancing, arts and craft training from the Choir. Each year, touring groups are invited to give performances overseas, spreading the message of love and peace to other parts of the world. The Choir has been well received and applauded in over 24 countries, gaining an international reputation as "one of the best children's choirs in the world" and "the Little Goodwill Singing Ambassadors from Hong Kong".

Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus [\[full biography\]](#)

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus was established in 1980. Over the years, it has collaborated with the HK Phil to perform a range of different works. In 2013, the Chorus undertook a new recruitment drive, and over 450 singers were attracted to attend the auditions. The first performance by the newly reformed Chorus was Handel's *Messiah*. Since then, the Chorus has performed with the HK Phil in major works by composers such as, Britten, Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Haydn and Mahler under renowned conductors including Lorin Maazel, Nicholas McGegan, Brett Weymark and Jaap van Zweden, amongst others.

BRAVO: SOUNDS OF HONG KONG

1 & 2 | 11 | 2019

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$480 \$380 \$280 \$180

Tickets are now available at URBTIX.

For ages 6 and above



Artists

[Lio Kuokman](#)

[Louise Kwong](#)

[Duo Ping and Ting](#)

[Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus](#)

[The Hong Kong Children's Choir](#)

conductor

soprano

piano duo

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



Lio Kuokman

Photo Credit: Gabriel Leung



Louise Kwong

Photo Credit: Giulia Hrvatin



Ping and Ting Piano Duo

Photo Credit: Charles Chan



The Hong Kong Children's Choir



Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus

Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-wai/HK Phil



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Eric Hon/HK Phil

Programme

SHOSTAKOVICH

Festive Overture

BRAHMS

Schicksalslied (Song of Destiny)

POULENC

Concerto for Two Pianos

CILEA

Adriana Lecouvreur. “Io son l’umile ancella”

De CURTIS

“Non ti scordar di me”

Jack Noble WHITE

“All the Children of the World”

(arr. WONG Chun-wai)

HK Phil new commissions by Hong Kong composers Ray Leung (Chung-yin Leung), Austin Yip, Joyce Pui-shan Cheung and Joyce Tang

and more

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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. In 2019, the HK Phil received the prestigious Gramophone Orchestra of the Year Award – the first orchestra in Asia to receive this distinction.

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 is also 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 Jaap van Zweden, the HK Phil has attained new heights of artistic excellence, garnering international critical acclaim. The orchestra successfully completed a four-year journey through Wagner's Ring Cycle, performing and recording one opera from the cycle each year from 2015 to 2018. The concert performances and live Naxos recordings were enthusiastically received by audiences, praised by critics at home and abroad and garnered Gramophone Orchestra of the Year Award 2019.

The HK Phil tours extensively across Mainland China and, with the support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, undertook a major tour in 2017 to Seoul, Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne and Sydney in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The orchestra will perform in Japan and Korea in 2020.

Thanks to a significant subsidy from the Hong Kong SAR Government and long-term funding from Principal Patron Swire, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and other supporters, the HK Phil presents an 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.

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 conducting their own compositions. Its acclaimed education and community engagement programmes in schools, hospitals and outdoor spaces 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 great cities in the world.

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 a Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.