

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Macallan Bravo Series: Jaap | The Labèque Sisters (22 & 23 November) Music Director Jaap van Zweden leads the HK Phil, world renowned duo-piano team The Labèque Sisters and two premieres

[18 November 2019, Hong Kong] A star duo-piano team [The Labèque Sisters](#) and two premieres, together with the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** will bring inspiration and innovation to Hong Kong's musical landscape in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall** on **22 and 23 November** in concerts led by Music Director [Jaap van Zweden](#).

This programme features the Asia premiere of Philip Glass's Concerto for Two Pianos performed by headliners The Labèque Sisters, "the best piano duo in front of an audience today", according to the *New York Times*. The duo last performed with the HK Phil in 2009. In addition to their performances with the world's major orchestras and conductors, the French-born siblings are also noted for their work with leading contemporary composers including Philip Glass. The Labèque Sisters presented the world premiere of this concerto in 2015 with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra under Gustavo Dudamel.

The evening also features a work by Hong Kong composer Chan Kai-young, whose compositions have received enthusiastic responses from HK Phil and international audiences. Winner of numerous competitions including the HK Phil's Composers Showcase in 2017, Chan's nuanced and resonant music converses with societies and cultures, particularly the musicality of Chinese literature. *Spiraling Dreamscape*, which will receive its Hong Kong premiere on this programme, epitomises these qualities.

The concert will open with Wagner's Prelude to Act 1 of *Lohengrin*, arguably the most gorgeous of Wagner's operas, with this Prelude setting the tone. The concert also features Mussorgky's Pictures at an Exhibition, a grand suite originally composed for virtuoso piano and later orchestrated by a long list of composers and transcribed for everything from saxophone choir to punk-jazz band. This time, we bring you Stokowski's own dazzling orchestration, opening the piece with low strings and woodwinds, creating deep, chorale-like textures.

The Macallan Bravo Series: Jaap | The Labèque Sisters is sponsored by The Macallan.

The concert will be held on **22 & 23 November (Fri & Sat) at 8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets are HK\$580, \$480, \$380, \$280 and are available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Artists

Jaap van Zweden, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

Over the past decade, conductor Jaap van Zweden has become an international presence on three continents. Currently Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, he is also Music Director of the New York Philharmonic – a post he has held since the 2018/19 season. Guest engagements this season include the Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Shanghai Symphony and Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

The Labèque Sisters, piano [\[full biography\]](#)

Katia and Marielle Labèque are sibling pianists renowned for their ensemble of synchronicity and energy. Their musical ambitions started at an early age and they rose to international fame with their contemporary rendition of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue (one of the first gold records in classical music) and have since developed a stunning career with performances worldwide. They are regular guests with the most prestigious orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic, Bayerischer Rundfunk, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus, London Symphony, London Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Filarmonia della Scala, Philadelphia Orchestra, Dresden Staatskapelle, Royal Concertgebouw Amsterdam and Vienna Philharmonic, under the direction of Marin Alsop, Alain Altinoglu, Semyon Bychkov, Sir Colin Davis, Gustavo Dudamel, Gustavo Gimeno, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Zubin Mehta, Juanjo Mena, Seiji Ozawa, Antonio Pappano, Matthias Pintscher, Georges Prêtre, Sir Simon Rattle, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Leonard Slatkin, Michael Tilson Thomas and Jaap van Zweden.

JAAP! SERIES: THE MACALLAN BRAVO SERIES: JAAP | THE LABÈQUE SISTERS

& 23 | 11 | 2019
FRI & SAT 8PM
Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall
HK\$580 \$480 \$380 \$280
Tickets are now available at URBTIX.
For ages 6 and above

The concert is sponsored by The Macallan.

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#) conductor
[The Labèque Sisters](#) piano

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Jaap van Zweden
Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-wai/HK Phil



The Labèque Sisters
Photo Credit: Brigitte Lacombe



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo Credit: Cheung Wai-lok/HK Phil

Programme

WAGNER *Lohengrin*: Prelude to Act 1
Philip GLASS Concerto for Two Pianos (Asia premiere)
CHAN Kai-young *Spiraling Dreamscape* (HK premiere)
MUSSORGSKY *Pictures at an Exhibition*

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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.