

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Virtuoso Percussionist Martin Grubinger Performs with the HK Phil under the Baton of Hong Kong-Born Conductor Elim Chan
Bravo: Elim Chan & Martin Grubinger- Rhythm & Dance (10 & 11 January)

[9 January 2020, Hong Kong] The **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** is honoured to welcome the new Chief Conductor of the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, Hong Kong-born [Elim Chan](#), in a thrilling concert of musical fireworks. The programme will also feature one of the best percussionists around, [Martin Grubinger](#), in *Sieidi*, Percussion Concerto (Asia Premiere) by Finnish composer Kalevi Aho. Elim Chan directs two performances on **10 & 11 January 2020** at the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**.

“Mr. Grubinger...is a master of the high-speed chase. He can also go from barely audible triplepianos to earsplitting ultrafortissimos.”
--- *The New York Times*

Austrian percussionist Martin Grubinger’s technical perfection, enthusiasm and musical versatility make his performances “must-attend” events. Following on from the enthusiastic response to their Edinburgh performance of *Sieidi*, Martin Grubinger and Elim Chan bring the work to the stage of the HK Phil, showcasing their dazzling partnership to the Hong Kong audience. The composer, Kalevi Aho, relishes instrumental colour and effect, and the whole panoply of percussion sounds from the explosive to the caressing will be presented here.

The programme also includes two pieces from legendary Russian composer, Igor Stravinsky. The sorrowful *Funeral Son*, was written in memory of his teacher Rimsky-Korsakov but the 12-minute work disappeared after its initial performance and was eventually revived in 2015. The HK Phil will bring this piece, what the composer called “The best work before *Firebird*”, alive in this concert. The sumptuous ballet score *Petrushka*, is full of Russian colour.

Bravo: Elim Chan & Martin Grubinger- Rhythm & Dance will be held on **10 & 11 January (Fri & Sat) at 8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets are HK\$480, \$380, \$280 and \$220 and are available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](#).

Artists

Elim Chan, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

One of the most exciting conductors of the younger generation and already widely admired for her unique combination of “drama and tenderness, power and delicacy” (Hereford Times), Elim Chan serves as Principal Guest Conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and has recently been appointed Chief Conductor of the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra.

Martin Grubinger, violin [\[full biography\]](#)

Possibly the best percussionist of the world, Martin Grubinger possesses an unusually broad repertoire ranging from solo works and chamber music with partners including his own Percussive Planet Ensemble, to percussion concertos. His technical perfection, enthusiasm and musical versatility make his performances “must-see” events and bring the percussion from the back of the orchestra to the forefront of the stage.

BRAVO SERIES: ELIM CHAN & MARTIN GRUBINGER: RHYTHM & DANCE

10 & 11 | 1 | 2020

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$480 \$380 \$280 \$220

Tickets are now available at URBTIX.

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Elim Chan](#) conductor

[Martin Grubinger](#) percussion

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Elim Chan

Photo Credit: Simon Pauly



Martin Grubinger

Photo Credit: Simon Pauly



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Eric Hon/HK Phil

Programme

Kalevi AHO

STRAVINSKY

STRAVINSKY

Sieidi, Percussion Concerto (Asia Premiere)

Funeral Song

Petrushka (1947)

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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.