

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 8 June 2020

**From note to hope
In music we rejoice**

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra announces its 2020/21 Season

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[8 June 2020, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) today announced the orchestra's exciting 2020/21 season, presenting 35 fantastic programmes featuring over 80 international and local guest artists. Five newly commissioned works by Hong Kong composers will be premiered. In the new season, the orchestra will also be touring both Asia and Europe, showcasing Hong Kong's artistic excellence to the world. Come and reunite with the HK Phil to share the power of music!

- **Back to concert hall in September! Two concerts for the community, sharing love and joy of being back on stage with the Hong Kong community.**
- **Continuing Beethoven 250th celebration with four great programmes, all conducted by Music Director Jaap van Zweden, together with elegant violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter. A stellar international cast of singers, including returning *Ring* stars Simon O'Neill, Matthias Goerne and Valentina Farcas, and two choirs from Latvija and Hong Kong will be performing the composer's one and only opera *Fidelio* – which will be recorded live for future release on the Naxos label. All in October 2020!**
- **Happy Birthday to Maestros! Our dearest Music Director Jaap's 60th birthday music gala with "his" orchestra the HK Phil and the HK Phil Chorus, as well as his friends – superstar violinist Joshua Bell and musicians from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. Japanese composer-conductor Joe Hisaishi's 70th birthday celebration with the Hong Kong audience presenting two thrilling programmes.**
- **Exciting programmes conducted by Music Director Jaap van Zweden and Principal Guest Conductor Yu Long with a superb line-up of artists – Rudolf Buchbinder, Meng-Chieh Liu, Alice Sara Ott, Akiko Suwanai, Maxim Vengerov, Jan Vogler, and more.**
- **Renowned musicians in the spotlight –Fabio Biondi, Sabine Meyer, MILOŠ, Jukka-Pekka Saraste and more.**
- **HK Phil musicians and HK artists in the season – Jing Wang, Richard Bamping, Lin Jiang, Russell Bonifede, Linda Stuckey and James Boznos from the HK Phil; Hong Kong musicians including Louise Kwong, Colleen Lee, Paloma So, Anson Wong Ying-shun, Apollo Wong, The Hong Kong Children's Choir and the HK Phil Chorus; as well as Hong Kong composers Chan Kai-young, Alvin Tam Lok-hei, Wong Chun-wai and Raymond Yiu.**
- **Crossover programmes – Hong Kong Ballet; Film & Live Projection; World Music; Jazz; Live Illustration, and Programmes for Kids.**
- **Brand new series – Chamber Music and Classics@9pm.**
- **Tours to Mainland China, Jakarta and 10 European cities.**
- **Create Your Own HK Phil Series – programmes selected by you, tailored to your tastes; enjoy the ultimate in subscription flexibility!**

HK Phil is Back!

In September 2020, the HK Phil will return to the concert hall to present two concerts for the community, sharing our love and joy of being back on stage with the Hong Kong community.

Birthdays Music Feast

Continuation of Beethoven 250th Series

The HK Phil continues the **Beethoven 250th** celebrations in 2020/21 season with four great programmes, all conducted by **Music Director Jaap van Zweden**.

- The celebrations kick off with the composer's iconic **Symphony no. 9**, showcasing the piece's climactic call for peace and joy among all people, presented by an array of international singers and two choirs – the **Taipei Philharmonic Chorus** and the **HK Phil Chorus**, as well as his impressive **Leonore Overture no. 2** (2 & 3 October 2020).
- The HK Phil was awarded *Gramophone* Orchestra of the Year 2019 for its opera-in-concert performances and recording of Wagner's *Ring* Cycle. Following this big success, this season the opera-in-concert performance of Beethoven's one and only opera, **Fidelio**, is also to be recorded live for future release on the record label Naxos. Hear Jaap van Zweden and a stellar international cast of singers, including returning *Ring* stars **Simon O'Neill**, **Matthias Goerne**, **Valentina Farcas**, as well as two choirs – **State Choir LATVIJA** and the **HK Phil Chorus**, perform this vivid and dramatic tale of the power of love to overcome political corruption (15 & 17 October 2020).
- Four times Grammy Award winning violinist **Anne-Sophie Mutter** returns to the stage of the HK Phil with her musical friends, paying tribute to this great composer in three performances in a week. Together with the HK Phil and Jaap van Zweden, Anne-Sophie Mutter and her friends, cellist **Kian Soltani** and pianist **Lauma Skride**, bring you Beethoven's **Triple Concerto**. The same programme also features Beethoven's **Romance no. 2** and one of his most popular and well-loved symphonies – **Symphony no. 6, Pastoral** (23 October 2020).
- **Anne-Sophie Mutter**'s recording of the Beethoven Violin Concerto was described as “a radical re-think of a classic — novel, provocative, sensual”. With this concert, Maestro Jaap van Zweden and the HK Phil reach the final chapter of our Beethoven 250th series, pairing the iconic **Violin Concerto** with **Romance no. 1** and **Symphony no. 8**, which Beethoven himself declared to be his personal favourite (24 October 2020).

JAAP's 60th Birthday Gala

Be our guests! Our **Music Director Jaap van Zweden** invites you all to join his 60th birthday party, featuring superstar violinist **Joshua Bell**, the **HK Phil Chorus**, as well as a premiere of a **HK Phil commission** by Hong Kong composer **Chan Kai-young**. Jaap will also bring you a special side-by-side performance with musicians from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (**Academy Symphony Orchestra**) in **Beethoven's** most famous and popular work, **Symphony no. 5** (23 December 2020).

Celebration of Joe Hisaishi's 70th birthday in Hong Kong

Popular Japanese composer-conductor **Joe Hisaishi** celebrates his 70th birthday in Hong Kong! He returns to conduct two programmes. All the music has been composed by Maestro Joe Hisaishi, including his well-known work **Woman** and famous anime music **Kiki's Delivery Service Suite** (all four performances). The Maestro also presents two premieres of his orchestral works – **Symphony no. 2** (4 December 2020, 8pm; 5 December 2020, 3pm) and **The Border, Concerto for 3 Horns** (5 December 2020, 8pm; 6 December 2020, 3pm), featuring Japanese hornist **Nobuaki Fukukawa** as well as **HK Phil Principal Horn Lin Jiang** and **Co-Principal Horn Russell Bonifede**.

Advance booking for “Asia Miles Proudly Sponsors: Joe Hisaishi in Concert” tickets are ONLY available via online subscription under the real name system, without any discount offered. First-come, first-served. Details about the advance booking will be announced on the HK Phil website on 22 June 2020. After the season subscription period (29 June – 31 July 2020), tickets will be available at URBTIX under a real name system, details about public sales at URBTIX to be announced in mid-October 2020 via HK Phil and URBTIX websites. Stay tuned!

TEN programmes with JAAP!

Over this new season, **Music Director Jaap van Zweden** will be conducting a total of **TEN** exciting concert programmes with the HK Phil and many internationally-renowned artists. More with Jaap are as follows:

- Youngest-ever winner of the 1990 International Tchaikovsky Competition, Japanese violinist **Akiko Suwanai** plays **Prokofiev's** lyrical **Violin Concerto no. 1**, paired with **Beethoven's** heroic **Symphony no. 3, Eroica**, showing the infinite potential of Jaap van Zweden and the HK Phil. The orchestra also presents the world premiere of the **Piccolo Concerto** by **OZNO**, our **Principal Timpani**, which is dedicated to his wife, **Linda Stuckey**, who will be the soloist (22 & 23 January 2021).
- Three concertos in a row! HK Phil Concertmaster **Jing Wang** and Principal Cello **Richard Bamping** team up to present the world premiere of **Wong Chun-wai's Double Concerto**. The legendary pianist **Rudolf Buchbinder** performs **Ravel's** sparkling **Piano Concerto in G**, and musicians of every section of the HK Phil shine in **Bartók's** iconic **Concerto for Orchestra** (29 & 30 January 2021).
- Cellist **Jan Vogler** brings the expansive **Cello Concerto** by **Dvořák** to the stage. **Mahler's** refined **Symphony no. 1**, conducted by the great Mahler interpreter Jaap van Zweden, provides the concert's climax (2 & 3 April 2021).
- Jaap and the HK Phil prepare for their grand European tour with this powerful programme – virtuoso German-Japanese pianist **Alice Sara Ott's** HK Phil debut in **Mozart's Piano Concerto no. 21**, and **Shostakovich's** patriotic **Symphony no. 7, Leningrad** (5 May 2021).
- A delightful pairing of Mozart and Schumann. Hong Kong pianist **Colleen Lee** showcases her magic touch in **Mozart's** penultimate **Piano Concerto no. 26, Coronation**. The programme also features **Schumann's Symphony no. 3, Rhenish**, and a world premiere of a **newly-commissioned work by a Hong Kong composer** under **The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Composers Scheme** (26 June 2021).

More with Principal Guest Conductor Yu Long

Hailed as one of the world's greatest violinists, **Maxim Vengerov** returns to the HK Phil stage, playing **Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto**, part of an all-Russian programme directed by **Principal Guest Conductor Yu Long** (18 & 19 December 2020).

Maestro Yu Long is joined by emerging young artists **Paloma So, Serena Wang** and **Anson Wong Ying-shun**, in a musical celebration of the Lunar New Year, presenting **Prokofiev's Violin Concerto no. 2**, **Berlioz's** colourful **Roman Carnival Overture**, **Duka's The Sorcerer's Apprentice** and **Saint-Saëns' The Carnival of the Animals** (6 February 2021).

Yu Long once again conducts music by one of today's leading living **Chinese composers, Chen Qigang** – **Instants d'un Opéra de Pékin**, and collaborates with pianist **Meng-Chieh Liu** in **Rachmaninov's** passionate **Piano Concerto no. 3** (16 & 17 April 2021).

Dazzling Conductors and Soloists

For the very first time, ECHO Prize-winning English conductor **Alexander Shelley** will conduct the orchestra's biggest annual outdoor symphonic event, **Swire Symphony Under The Stars**, at the Central Harbourfront, under the backdrop of the spectacular night view of the orchestra's home city (21 November 2020).

MILOŠ, the charismatic master of the guitar, joins the HK Phil for **Rodrigo's** hugely popular **Concierto de Aranjuez**. The programme also features **Falla's** ballet music **The Three-Cornered Hat: Suite no. 2**, as well as Spanish-inspired French works, **Debussy's Images: Iberia**, and **Ravel's Boléro** (8 & 9 January 2021).

Virtuoso clarinetist **Sabine Meyer** makes her debut on the stage of the HK Phil in **Weber's Clarinet Concerto no. 1**. One-hour classics with the orchestra includes two more fabulous pieces, **Richard Strauss' Don Juan** and **Schubert's brilliant Symphony no. 8, Unfinished** (15 January 2021).

An evening with **Brahms' immortal A German Requiem** will be directed by renowned German Chorusmaster **Ralf Otto**, teaming up with soprano **Christina Gansch**, baritone **Thomas E. Bauer**, and the **HK Phil Chorus** (10 & 11 April 2020).

Distinguished Italian violinist and conductor **Fabio Biondi** makes his HK Phil debut in a thrilling evening of music and dance in a special collaboration between the HK Phil and **Hong Kong Ballet** in two works – **Mozart's** celebrated **Eine kleine Nachtmusik** and **Purcell's** fanciful **The Fairy Queen Suite**, which is inspired by Shakespeare's classic *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – both choreographed by **Hong Kong Ballet's Artistic Director Septime Webre**. The programme also includes **Violin Concertos** by **Mozart** and **Vivaldi** (30 April & 1 May 2021).

For the truly spectacular season finale, the HK Phil welcomes conductor **Jukka-Pekka Saraste** making his HK Phil debut in a fantastic programme, pairing up with the **former HK Phil Principal Trumpet Esteban Batallán** in **Henri Tomasi's** phenomenally difficult **Trumpet Concerto**. The HK Phil's 2020/21 season concludes with **Bruckner's** truly majestic **Symphony no. 9** (3 July 2021).

Hong Kong Talent with the HK Phil

HK Phil Chorusmaster Apollo Wong leads **The Hong Kong Children's Choir** and the **HK Phil Chorus** in a programme of sacred and secular music for this year's Silent Night (24 December 2020).

One of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons 2019 in Hong Kong, Hong Kong soprano **Louise Kwong**, performs **operatic arias** by **Verdi** and **J Strauss II**, while the waltz king J Strauss II transforms the concert hall into a ballroom with his stunning dance music. Out with the old 2020, in with the new 2021 with the HK Phil! (30 & 31 December 2020)

Collaboration beyond Music

The HK Phil is proud to introduce a series of crossover programmes in this new season.

HK Phil x HK Ballet

Under the lead of **Fabio Biondi**, one of the most important and influential figures of the Baroque period-instrument movement, the HK Phil and **Hong Kong Ballet** collaborate in two works – **Mozart's** celebrated ***Eine kleine Nachtmusik*** and **Purcell's** fanciful ***The Fairy Queen Suite*** – both choreographed by **Hong Kong Ballet's Artistic Director Septime Webre** (30 April & 1 May 2021).

Film & Live Projection

Eminent American composer **John Corigliano's** original score for the film ***The Red Violin*** won him an Oscar, and this season our audience can enjoy the complete movie with live performance of this breathtakingly beautiful and emotionally intense score by the HK Phil and violinist **Lara St John** conducted by **Sylvain Gasançon** (29 & 30 May 2021).

The adventures of a day in the mountains are vividly recalled in **Richard Strauss' monumental *An Alpine Symphony***. Along with live projection of **Tobias Melle's** photographs of the Alps, a gargantuan orchestra, including wind machine, thunderclaps and organ, is directed by **Michael Sanderling** (11 & 12 June 2021).

The HK Phil guides the audience through the wonders of our world in the spectacular BBC's flagship 2017 series ***Planet Earth II***, with ground-breaking film-taking techniques and matchless musical scores by **Hans Zimmer, Jacob Shea** and **Jasha Klebe** (18 & 19 June 2021; 20 June 2021, under Swire Sunday Family Series).

Swire Denim Series x World Music; Jazz; Live Illustration

Indian revered composer and violinist **Dr L Subramaniam** presents an inspiring programme with Indian musicians **Kavita Krishnamurti** (voice), **Tanmoy Bose** (tabla), **Guru Raghavendra** (mridangam). They are joined by the **HK Phil Chorus** in the epic ***Bharat Symphony***, written to mark the 70th anniversary of India's independence, as well as Dr L Subramaniam's own violin concerto ***Shantipriya*** ("love of peace"). This concert is part of the "**India by the Bay Festival**" (20 February 2021).

Hong Kong jazz icon **Ted Lo** and friends, including long-term collaborator **Eugene Pao** and Cantopop singer **Janice Vidal**, promise you a relaxing night with their soulful improvisations. Let's jazz in the city with the HK Phil! (23 & 24 April 2021)

French artist **Grégoire Pont** adds a visual dimension to a programme of delightful music by **Ravel, Tchaikovsky** and **Elgar** with his live painting under the baton of Indian-American conductor **Ankush Kumar Bahl** (4 & 5 June 2021).

Interesting Bits for Kids

Who isn't curious about dinosaurs? Revealing the hidden world of dinosaurs, the HK Phil offers a child-friendly journey to discover dinosaurs in music with **Dr Michael Pittman**, who shares some interesting facts about these long extinct but fascinating creatures (28 November 2020).

Happy Gabby rings for help! Our Principal Viola **Andrew Ling** becomes a conductor, together with presenter **Joe Wong** and the HK Phil, pick the call from Happy Gabby, taking him and his friends on a musical adventure (12 December 2020).

Bid farewell to the Year of the Rat with a musical carnival of animals! Maestro **Yu Long** directs **Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice***, conjuring up that most adorable of mice – Mickey – who wishes to join all the musical creatures in **Saint-Saëns' magical zoological carnival** (7 February 2021, under Swire Sunday Family Series).

New Concert Series

Chamber Music

Enjoy **three** diverse evenings of captivating chamber music in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre with star violinist **Anne-Sophie Mutter** and friends playing **Beethoven's string trio and quartet** (20 October 2020), an **all-Mozart programme** celebrating Mozart's 265th birthday (27 January 2021), and organist **Christian Schmitt** playing one of the largest mechanically operated pipe organs in Asia in solo works by **Bach** and music for brass and organ by **Giovanni Gabrieli** and **Richard Strauss** with the **HK Phil Brass Ensemble** (8 June 2021).

ONE performance only for each programme!

Classics@9pm

We present **two** special chill-out programmes for busy urbanites **at a standard price of HK\$280** for all seats. Concerts start at 9pm, run approximately one hour with no intermission. After the performance, you are most welcome to mingle over drinks with HK Phil musicians and guest artists at the alfresco bar next to the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, complemented by a stunning night view of the Victoria Harbour.

These two programmes include virtuoso clarinetist **Sabine Meyer** in **Weber's Clarinet Concerto no. 1** (15 January 2021), and pianist **Meng-Chieh Liu** in **Rachmaninov's passionate Piano Concerto no. 3** (16 & 17 April 2021).

Restaurant Partner: INK Seafood Bar

HK Phil x Tai Kwun: Chamber Music Series

Since the 2018/19 season, the HK Phil x Tai Kwun: Chamber Music Series has received overwhelming response. Starting in September 2020, HK Phil musicians will return to Tai Kwun to showcase the potential and delicacy of chamber music with six colourful programmes*.

**Advertised programmes of the 2019/20 season. Rescheduled due to the recent epidemic.*

Tours to Asia and Europe with JAAP

In the 2020/21 season the HK Phil, *Gramophone's* 2019 Orchestra of the Year, will embark on tours under Music Director Jaap van Zweden, to 7 countries and 12 cities in Asia and Europe. The HK Phil will start the journey in **November 2020**, celebrating the 250th anniversary of Beethoven with audiences in **Guangzhou** and **Jakarta**.

The journey continues in **May 2021** with Maestro Jaap van Zweden touring **Europe** once more since their last visit to the continent in 2015. This tour includes debuts in **Valencia, Barcelona, Oviedo, Dresden, Luxembourg, Cologne, Amsterdam** and **Antwerp**, as well as revisits to **Eindhoven** and **Berlin**. Among these 10 cities, we are very honoured to make our first appearance at the **Concertgebouw's Mahler Festival 2021** in Amsterdam. The HK Phil is the first Asian orchestra to perform at this prestigious festival held every 25 years. Concert programmes in Europe include masterworks by Beethoven, Dvořák, Mahler, Mozart, Ravel, Shostakovich and Wagner.

The HK Phil is very happy to tour with renowned soloists including pianists **Rudolf Buchbinder** and **Alice Sara Ott**, cellist **Jan Vogler**, bass-baritone **Shenyang**, and our very own musician, **HK Phil Concertmaster Jing Wang**.

The orchestra will again tour with works by two emerging **Hong Kong composers, Chan Kai-young** (Asian tour) and **Alvin Tam Lok-hei** (European tour), showcasing the artistic excellence of Hong Kong talent.

Subscriptions Run from 29 June until 31 July 2020

For the 2020/21 season, the HK Phil is delighted to launch a brand-new subscription plan – **Create Your Own HK Phil Series**. Create yourself a unique series by picking at least three of your favourites from a total of 35 programmes. Concerts selected by you, tailored to your tastes – the ultimate in subscription flexibility! And, the more you order, the deeper the discounts. The 2020/21 HK Phil subscription campaign will continue to have two phases.

- **2019/20 subscribers can renew their subscription between 29 June and 12 July 2020** to enjoy the best savings and best available seats.
- **Subscriptions will then be open to the public from 16 July until 31 July 2020**. During this period, subscribers can still enjoy the best savings.

Subscribers are eligible for up to **30% discounts**; the more you purchased, the more you save! Students, seniors, disabled and CSSA recipients enjoy 50% off for subscription and single ticket purchases.

Advance booking for “Asia Miles Proudly Sponsors: Joe Hisaishi in Concert” tickets are ONLY available via online subscription under the real name system, without any discount offered. First-come, first-served. Details about the advance booking will be announced on the HK Phil website on 22 June 2020. **After the season subscription period (29 June – 31 July 2020), tickets will be available at URBIX under a real name system,** details about public sales at URBIX to be announced in mid-October 2020 via HK Phil and URBIX websites. Stay tuned!

How to Subscribe

There are four ways to subscribe:

1. Online: hkphil.org/2021sub **go online to enjoy a lower administration fee**
2. Email: subscriptions@hkphil.org
3. Fax: 2721 1487
4. Mail: HK Phil Subscription Office, Level 8, Administration Building, HKCC, TST, Kowloon

Season Subscription Enquiries: 2721 2332 / 2721 0132 (Monday – Friday) or subscriptions@hkphil.org

Education and Outreach Initiatives of the HK Phil

Jockey Club Keys to Music Education Programme

With generous sponsorship from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the **Jockey Club Keys to Music Education Programme** has brought tremendous benefits to local teachers and students every season since 2012. More than 200,000 students and educators have been inspired by the special musical activities – School Concerts, Ensemble Visits, Focused Ensemble Visits and Instrumental Masterclasses – presented by the HK Phil. Since the 2018/19 season, a new initiative has been included in the programme – ensemble residency at the iconic Tai Kwun, Centre for Heritage and Arts in Hong Kong, including afternoon Chamber Music Series at the JC Cube and lunchtime performances at the Laundry Steps. For more information, please visit hkphil.org/ktm.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust is the exclusive sponsor of the Jockey Club Keys to Music Education Programme.

The Tung Foundation – Young Audience Scheme

Presented by the HK Phil and sponsored by The Tung Foundation, **Young Audience Scheme** has been one of the HK Phil's audience-building initiatives for more than 20 years. It encourages young people to embrace the joy of classical music through a comprehensive member experience. It offers local full-time students aged between 6 and 25 exclusive opportunities to meet with the HK Phil and other world-class musicians. Members also enjoy other activities and events organised by the HK Phil, year-round privileges, and discounts, as well as other reward schemes and souvenirs. For more information, please visit hkphil.org/yas.

The Young Audience Scheme is sponsored by The Tung Foundation.

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Composers Scheme

Organised by the HK Phil and sponsored by The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation, **The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Composers Scheme** provides a platform for local emerging composers to broaden their experience of orchestral writing. Four to six selected composers will have the opportunity to present an orchestral work of between three and four minutes' duration with the HK Phil at a Public Working Session and Showcase. Each year, one outstanding composer will be commissioned to write a new work for the HK Phil, premiered in a HK Phil concert. For more information, please visit hkphil.org/composersscheme.

The Composers Scheme is sponsored by The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation.

HK Phil Community Concert

The HK Phil believes music has the power to enrich lives and souls. It helps form a harmonious society, and we recognise the value of this by bringing music to the community. The HK Phil Community Concert is a long-established initiative reaching out to students and communities, providing world-class symphonic music for the public of Hong Kong free-of-charge. We engage students to perform in the Community Concert as a means of nurturing local audiences and musicians. It also helps boost their confidence, communication, cooperation, and listening skills.

Connect with Us

The HK Phil's informative website hkphil.org offers the latest concert and ticketing information. Music lovers can also stay tuned through the HK Phil's updates on **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/HKPhil), **Instagram** (www.instagram.com/hkphilharmonic/), **Twitter** (twitter.com/hkphilharmonic), **LinkedIn** (www.linkedin.com/company/the-hong-kong-philharmonic-society-ltd), **Weibo** (www.weibo.com/hkpo) and **WeChat** (please scan the QR code attached below). Videos from the HK Phil are also available on **YouTube** (www.youtube.com/HKPhilharmonic).

HK Phil WeChat Channel:



Radio and TV Broadcast by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)

Music lovers can enjoy some of the most memorable performances by the HK Phil through the broadcast of **Radio Television Hong Kong** which connects the HK Phil with audiences in all parts of the world.

Thank You Partners

The HK Phil would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to the following partners for their support:

Major Funding Body: The Government of the HKSAR

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Venue Partner: Hong Kong Cultural Centre

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- **Create Your Own HK Phil Series** – select three or more concerts to create your own season package. Concerts selected by you, tailored to your tastes – the ultimate in subscription flexibility. The more you purchase, the more you save!
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- **Subscribers’ benefits include best savings (discounts up to 30%), best available seats and flexible ticketing services.**
- **Season Subscription Booking Deadline: 31 July 2020 (Friday)**
- **URBTIX public ticket sales starts from 17 August 2020 (Monday).**
- **Season Subscription Enquiries: 2721 2332 / 2721 0132 (Monday – Friday)**
or subscriptions@hkphil.org

HK Phil 2020/21 Season Launch Venue Partner:

THE PENINSULA
HONG KONG

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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 symphonic 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 earned the *Gramophone* Orchestra of the Year Award 2019. The HK Phil's performance of Beethoven's only opera *Fidelio* in October 2020 will be recorded live for the Naxos label.

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 undertake tours to 12 cities in Asia and Europe in the 2020/21 season, with the debut in Indonesia, Spain, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the German cities of Cologne and Dresden; and the HK Phil will be having its debut at the prestigious Royal Concertgebouw's Mahler Festival 2021, the first Asian orchestra to perform at this prestigious event held every 25 years in Amsterdam.

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, Renée Fleming, Matthias Goerne, Stephen Hough, Evgeny Kissin, Lang Lang, Yo-Yo Ma, Ning Feng, Leonard Slatkin, The Labèque Sisters, 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.