

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 8 April 2021

A Spring Fiesta with the HK Phil with Music from Germany to Argentina

Best of Brahms (10 April)

Swire Sunday Family Series: Carnival of the Animals (11 April)

Swire Denim Series: Piazzolla at 100! (16 & 17 April)

[8 April 2021, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is excited to present an abundance of music for the blossoming of spring. Argentinean conductor [Mariano Chiacchiarini](#) will lead the orchestra in three consecutive programmes, alongside an array of artists – the orchestra's **Principal Bassoon Benjamin Moermond** in “Best of Brahms (10 April)”; pianists [Rachel Cheung](#) and [Anson Wong Ying-shun](#), as well as presenter [Vivek Mahbubani](#), in “Swire Sunday Family Series: Carnival of the Animals (11 April)”; and HK Phil Concertmaster [Jing Wang](#) and tango dancers [Raymond Chu and Lily Cheng](#) in “Swire Denim Series: Piazzolla at 100! (16 & 17 April)”.

Tickets are now available on URBTIX. Join the orchestra for a spring musical fiesta!

Best of Brahms (10 April; ONE performance only)

Argentinean conductor [Mariano Chiacchiarini](#) will lead the HK Phil in the music of Brahms and Weber. **HK Phil Principal Bassoon Benjamin Moermond** will be featured in the **Bassoon Concerto** by Weber. Theatrical and triumphant, this concerto reveals the versatility of the bassoon.

The concert will begin with **Brahms' Hungarian Dance no. 1**, inspired by a Hungarian violinist with whom the young Brahms toured. It is a lively gypsy dance, and will make an invigorating and exciting start to the concert.

Brahms' last symphony, Symphony no. 4, will be the concert's grand finale. This symphony is a rare jewel, filled with progressiveness which greatly differs from Brahms' early works. As the famous critic Eduard Hanslick said, listening to this piece is “like [looking into] a dark well; the longer we look into it, the more brightly the stars shine back”.

Best of Brahms will be presented on **10 April 2021 (Sat)** at **8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets are HK\$380, \$280 and \$180 and are available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](#).

Swire Sunday Family Series: Carnival of the Animals (11 April, 3PM; ONE performance only)

The HK Phil takes the audience on a grand zoological adventure on a Sunday afternoon with conductor [Mariano Chiacchiarini](#), Hong Kong pianists [Rachel Cheung](#) and [Anson Wong Ying-shun](#), and presenter [Vivek Mahbubani](#). This concert is just perfect for families and friends to enjoy some light music for a relaxing holiday.

The music depicts a true menagerie of animals, ranging from fish in the sea to birds in the sky. The concert begins and ends with pieces by French composers – an excerpt from **Milhaud's** ballet *Le Bœuf sur le Toit* ("The Ox on the Roof"), and **Saint-Saëns' The Carnival of the Animals** respectively. The latter is a musical picture of a peculiar assortment of animals, including elephants, kangaroos, swans, and even pianists! The audience will discover in the concert how it is that the two pianists join this carnival as well.

Other pieces featured in this concert are **Vaughn Williams' The Wasps Overture**, **Rimsky-Korsakov's Flight of the Bumblebee**, and **Haydn's Symphony no. 82, The Bear: 4th movement**.

Swire Sunday Family Series: Carnival of the Animals will be presented on **11 April 2021 (Sun)** at **3PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets are HK\$380, \$280 and \$180 and are available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](#).

Swire Denim Series: Piazzolla at 100! (16 & 17 April 2021)

Conductor [Mariano Chiacchiarini](#) and the HK Phil will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Argentinean composer **Astor Piazzolla's** birth, with two thrilling performances featuring **tango dancers [Raymond Chu and Lily Cheng](#)**, who will bring the stage alive with impressive tango sways and steps in perfect synchronicity with the music.

HK Phil Concertmaster [Jing Wang](#) will perform two movements from Piazzolla's *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires: Invierno Porteño (Winter) and Primavera Porteña (Spring)*. The work is a tribute to Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* but with the flavours of Argentina, and like *Tangazo* and *Libertango*, other works in the programme also by Piazzolla, conveys the raw emotions of the tango and the rhythmic passion that is symbolic of Argentina.

This concert also features passionate dance music by other Latin American composers influenced by Piazzolla – *Estancia: Four Dances* by **Ginastera**, *La Cumparsita* by **Rodríguez**, and *Nocturna* by **Plaza**.

Swire Denim Series: Piazzolla at 100! will be presented on **16 & 17 April 2021 (Fri & Sat)** at **8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets are HK\$420, \$320 and \$220 and are available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](#).

Artists (Best of Brahms)

Mariano Chiacchiarini, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Mariano Chiacchiarini won First Prize at the Teatro Colón Conducting Competition in Argentina at the age of 25, and his subsequent international career has included collaborations with many of today's leading conductors. He has worked with many orchestras including the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, Lucerne Festival Academy, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, Russian State Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestre National de Lyon, Royal Flemish Philharmonic, Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern, WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne and Ensemble Modern. He has been invited to participate in major festivals and at leading concert halls including the Lucerne Festival, Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, Young Euro Classic, Donaueschingen Music Festival, the Elbphilharmonie, Konzerthaus Berlin, the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow and l'Opéra Bastille. A concert he conducted in China was chosen as Event of the Year and broadcast live worldwide.

Benjamin Moermond, bassoon [\[full description\]](#)

Benjamin Moermond has been Principal Bassoon of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) since 2010 and is active teaching and performing in Hong Kong and throughout the region. As a soloist with the HK Phil he has performed Haydn's Sinfonia Concertante, Telemann's Double Concerto for Recorder and Bassoon, and Mozart's Bassoon Concerto. As an educator he has been on the bassoon faculty for the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts.

Artists (Swire Sunday Family Series: Carnival of the Animals)

Mariano Chiacchiarini, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Mariano Chiacchiarini won First Prize at the Teatro Colón Conducting Competition in Argentina at the age of 25, and his subsequent international career has included collaborations with many of today's leading conductors. He has worked with many orchestras including the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, Lucerne Festival Academy, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, Russian State Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestre National de Lyon, Royal Flemish Philharmonic, Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern, WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne and Ensemble Modern. He has been invited to participate in major festivals and at leading concert halls including the Lucerne Festival, Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, Young Euro Classic, Donaueschingen Music Festival, the Elbphilharmonie, Konzerthaus Berlin, the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow and l'Opéra Bastille. A concert he conducted in China was chosen as Event of the Year and broadcast live worldwide.

Rachel Cheung, piano [\[full description\]](#)

Pianist Rachel Cheung won over audiences and critics alike at the 2017 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition with "stunningly imaginative" (Musical America) interpretations, and was awarded the Audience Prize. Also a Young Steinway Artist, she was awarded Artist of the Year (Music) by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council in 2019.

Anson Wong Ying-shun, piano [\[full description\]](#)

Anson Wong was born in Hong Kong, his music journey starts at the age of four. He graduated from Diocesan Boys' School and had been a junior student at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) since nine, majoring in piano, bassoon and composition. He is now a bachelor degree piano student at the HKAPA, studying with Prof. Gabriel Kwok.

Vivek Mahbubani, presenter [\[full description\]](#)

Vivek Mahbubani is a Hong Kong-bred stand-up comedian performing in both Cantonese and English. Having been crowned the Funniest Person (in Chinese) in Hong Kong in 2007, followed by his victory in the English category at the Hong Kong International Comedy Competition in 2008, Mahbubani has taken his sense of humour all over the world; including to Hong Kong, China, Macau, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Australia, Canada and the US.

Artists (Swire Denim Series: Piazzolla at 100!)

Mariano Chiacchiarini, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Mariano Chiacchiarini won First Prize at the Teatro Colón Conducting Competition in Argentina at the age of 25, and his subsequent international career has included collaborations with many of today's leading conductors. He has worked with many orchestras including the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, Lucerne Festival Academy, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, Russian State Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestre National de Lyon, Royal Flemish Philharmonic, Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern, WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne and Ensemble Modern. He has been invited to participate in major festivals and at leading concert halls including the Lucerne Festival, Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, Young Euro Classic, Donaueschingen Music Festival, the Elbphilharmonie, Konzerthaus Berlin, the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow and l'Opéra Bastille. A concert he conducted in China was chosen as Event of the Year and broadcast live worldwide.

Jing Wang, violin [\[full description\]](#)

Critically acclaimed Canadian violinist Jing Wang is one of the most versatile and dynamic violinists of his generation. Since his solo recital debut in Marseilles, France at the age of six, Wang has garnered prizes in top international competitions, including the first prize at the 2007 Irving M. Klein International Strings Competition. In 2003, Wang was awarded the "Young Soloist of the Year" by Les Radios Francophones Publiques, a broadcast network of four countries including France, Canada, Switzerland, and Belgium. As a part of the award, Wang's first CD album including works by Beethoven, Ravel and Gershwin was released in Europe.

Raymond Chu and Lily Cheng, tango dancers [\[full description\]](#)

Raymond Chu and Lily Cheng are professional tango dancers and teachers. They have won the Asian Championship (salon tango category) in Japan in 2011, and also the Salon Tango and Vals categories in the Championship in China in 2014. They have represented Asia and China twice in the World Championship 2011 in Buenos Aires, and have ranked top four in the semi-final, twice as top 30 finalists from over 400 professional couples from all over the world.

Best of Brahms

10 | 4 | 2021

SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK \$380 \$280 \$180

Tickets now available at URBIX; ONE performance only

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Mariano Chiacchiarini](#)

conductor

[Benjamin Moermond](#)

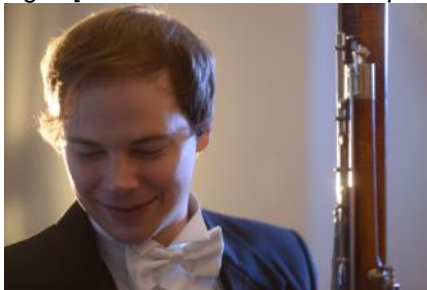
bassoon

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Mariano Chiacchiarini

Photo Credit: K. Bienert



Benjamin Moermond



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Eric Hong/HK Phil

Programme

BRAHMS

WEBER

BRAHMS

Hungarian Dance no. 1

Bassoon Concerto

Symphony no. 4

Swire Sunday Family Series: Carnival of the Animals

11 | 4 | 2021

SUN 3PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK \$380 \$280 \$180

Tickets now available at URBIX; ONE performance only

For ages 3 and above

Artists

[Mariano Chiacchiarini](#)

conductor

[Rachel Cheung](#)

piano

[Anson Wong Ying-shun](#)

piano

[Vivek Mahbubani](#)

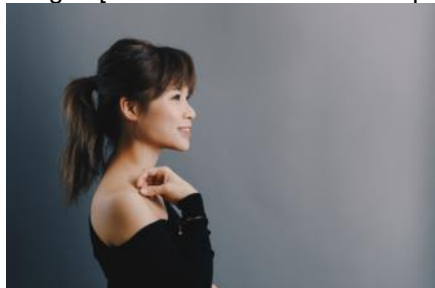
presenter

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



Mariano Chiacchiarini

Photo Credit: K. Bienert



Rachel Cheung

Photo Credit: Cheung Tai Chi



Anson Wong Ying-shun



Vivek Mahbubani



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-Wai/HK Phil

Programme

MILHAUD

Le Bœuf sur le Toit excerpt

VAUGHN WILLIAMS

The Wasps Overture

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

Flight of the Bumblebee

HAYDN

Symphony no. 82, *The Bear*. 4th movement

SAINT-SAËNS

The Carnival of the Animals

Swire Denim Series: Piazzolla at 100!

16 & 17 | 4 | 2021

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK \$420 \$320 \$220

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Mariano Chiacchiarini](#)

conductor

[Jing Wang](#)

violin

[Raymond Chu and Lily Cheng](#)

tango dancers

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



Mariano Chiacchiarini

Photo Credit: Priska Ketterer/ LUCERNE FESTIVAL



Jing Wang

Photo Credit: Wong Kin-chung



Lily Cheng and Raymond Chu



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Cheung Wai-lok/HK Phil

Programme

PIAZZOLLA
PIAZZOLLA

Tangazo

The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires:

Invierno Porteño (Winter) and Primavera Porteña (Spring)

GINASTERA

Estancia: Four Dances

RODRÍGUEZ

La Cumparsita

PLAZA

Nocturna

PIAZZOLLA

Libertango

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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 through to the end of the 2023/24 season. Following his tenure as Music Director, he will hold the title of Conductor Laureate. 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.

Lio Kuokman has been appointed as Resident Conductor, effective 1 December 2020 and covering the 2020/21 and 2021/22 seasons.

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 annually 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.

Thanks to a significant subsidy from the HKSAR Government, as well as 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, Hong Kong Arts Festival, and 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, Katia and Marielle Labèque (the Labèque sisters), 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 recently founded "The Orchestra Academy Hong Kong", funded by "TrustTomorrow" of The Swire Group Charitable Trust and co-directed with The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, aims at enhancing professional training for graduates from HKAPA's School of Music and facilitating their career development in the orchestral field.



梵志登 音樂總監
Jaap van Zweden Music Director

余隆 首席客席指揮
Yu Long Principal Guest Conductor

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.