

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Date: 22 April 2021

## Beethoven, Liszt, Fauré, Mozart and Ravel in One Programme with Conductor Christoph Koncz, Pianist Chiyan Wong and Hong Kong Ballet

Mozart en pointe | Chiyan Wong's Ravel (30 April & 1 May 2021)  
Short film *Amadeus (a cyberpunk dream)* with Hong Kong Ballet – Coming Soon!

[22 April 2021, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) welcomes Austrian conductor [Christoph Koncz](#) for his HK Phil debut in shimmering performances on **30 April** and **1 May** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. The programme features acclaimed pianist [Chiyan Wong](#), as well as [Hong Kong Ballet](#) in a special appearance.

Mozart en pointe | Chiyan Wong's Ravel (30 April & 1 May 2021)

Praised by *Gramophone* for his “dazzling virtuosity” and “sincerity of purpose”, Hong Kong-born pianist **Chiyan Wong** will perform Ravel's **Piano Concerto in G**, a work influenced by jazz and Basque folk music.

Seven dancers from **Hong Kong Ballet** will join the HK Phil in selected movements from **Mozart's *Eine kleine Nachtmusik***, and **Fauré's *Pelléas et Mélisande***, with original choreography by Hong Kong Ballet's Artistic Director [Septime Webre](#) and the great [George Balanchine](#) respectively. The beautiful balletic realisation of the Romanza (Gavotte), and the Minuet from Mozart's *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*, and the Fileuse and the Sicilienne from Fauré's *Pelléas et Mélisande* promises to be a truly magical experience.

Highly versatile musician **Christoph Koncz** will open the concert conducting **Beethoven's dramatic *Leonore Overture no. 3***. Written for *Fidelio*, the piece tells a love story amidst political chicanery and deadly, dark deeds. The concert continues with **Liszt's** symphonic poem ***Les préludes***, a work also connected to the theme of love.

港樂  
HKPhil

特別演出  
Special Appearance  
HK  
BALLET  
香港芭蕾舞團  
Septime Webre 藝術總監  
Artistic Director 藝術總監

MOZART EN POINTE | CHIYAN WONG'S RAVEL  
莫扎特與芭蕾 | 王致仁的拉威爾

30 APR  
1 MAY  
2021

FRI & SAT 8PM  
香港文化中心音樂廳  
Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

SWIRE

**Mozart en pointe | Chiyan Wong's Ravel** will be presented on **30 April & 1 May 2021 (Fri & Sat)** at **8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets are HK\$480, \$380 and \$280 and are available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](#).

Short film *Amadeus (a cyberpunk dream)* with Hong Kong Ballet Coming Soon!

Ballet + Classical Music + Cyberpunk! The HK Phil and Hong Kong Ballet (HKB) join hands to present a new short film, ***Amadeus (a cyberpunk dream)***, which depicts Mozart's futuristic journey from the extravagant classical era to a psychedelic urbanscape in frenetic Hong Kong. Featuring Mozart's *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> movements) performed by the HK Phil, with whimsical choreography from HKB's Artistic Director Septime Webre, the film takes you on an outrageous out-of-this-world adventure together with the HK Phil musicians and HKB dancers.

The video will be published on the HK Phil's and HKB's social media platforms next week. Stay tuned!



**Artists (Mozart en pointe | Chiyang Wong's Ravel)**

**Christoph Koncz, conductor** [\[full description\]](#)

Christoph Koncz is rapidly establishing himself internationally as a conductor having already enjoyed success as a violin soloist, chamber musician and a principal of the Wiener Philharmoniker. In March 2019 he was appointed Chief Conductor of the Deutsche Kammerakademie Neuss am Rhein, having guest conducted the orchestra the previous summer. He also enjoys a very close relationship with the renowned French period-instrument ensemble Les Musiciens du Louvre, where Marc Minkowski recently appointed him Principal Guest Conductor.

**Chiyang Wong, piano** [\[full description\]](#)

UK-based pianist Chiyang Wong has been astonishing audiences with the sincerity and authority of his playing. He is a broad and thoughtful musician with a special interest in the music of Franz Liszt and Ferruccio Busoni. Wong was recently awarded a prestigious prize as one of the most promising young artists to appear at the International Mozarteum Summer Academy and subsequently performed at the Salzburg Festival in 2017.

**Hong Kong Ballet dancers** [\[full description\]](#)

In Fauré *Pelléas et Mélisande* Suite excerpts:

**Amber Lewis and Ruiqi Yang**

In Mozart *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* excerpts:

**Chen Zhiyao, Garry Corpuz, Luis Cabrera, Albert Gordon and Lin Chang-yuan Kyle**

**George Balanchine, choreographer** [\[full description\]](#)

George Balanchine was one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's foremost choreographers. St Petersburg-born Balanchine had both the music and dance of Russia in his blood. Extensive musical training put him on equal grounds in communicating with great composers and enabled him to reduce orchestral scores on the piano, which is an invaluable aid in translating music into dance. Balanchine's style has been described as neo-classical, de-emphasising plot in ballets and preferring to let "dance be the star of the show". In his lifetime, he created 465 works.

**Septime Webre, choreographer** [\[full description\]](#)

Septime Webre is an internationally recognised ballet director, choreographer, educator and advocate. He joined Hong Kong Ballet as its Artistic Director in July 2017 after serving as Artistic Director of The Washington Ballet from 1999 to 2016, and as Artistic Director for the American Repertory Ballet in Princeton from 1993 to 1999.

## Mozart en Pointe | Chiyang Wong's Ravel

30 | 4 | 2021 & 1 | 5 | 2021

FRI & SAT 8 PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

\$480 \$380 \$280

Tickets now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Christoph Koncz](#)

[Chiyang Wong](#)

[Hong Kong Ballet dancers](#)

[George Balanchine](#)

[Septime Webre](#)

conductor

piano

choreographer

choreographer

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



**Christoph Koncz**

Photo Credit: Andreas Hechenberger



**Chiyang Wong**

Photo Credit: Scott Lau



**Hong Kong Ballet dancers**

Photo Credit: Dancers (from left): Garry Corpuz, Chen Zhiyao | Photography: Conrad Dy-Liacco | Courtesy of Hong Kong Ballet



**George Balanchine**



**Septime Webre**

Photo Credit: Worldwide Dancer Project |  
Courtesy of Hong Kong Ballet



**Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**

Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-Wai/HK Phil

### Programme

**BEETHOVEN**

**LISZT**

**FAURÉ**

**MOZART**

**RAVEL**

*Leonore Overture no. 3*

*Les Préludes*

*Pelléas et Mélisande* Suite excerpt (Hong Kong Ballet Special Appearance)\*

*Eine kleine Nachtmusik* excerpt (Hong Kong Ballet Special Appearance)^

Piano Concerto in G

\*Variations from *Emeralds*, Choreography by George Balanchine © The George Balanchine Trust; Staged by Diana White; Costume Design by Barbara Karinska; Lighting Design: Ruby Yau

^Choreography by Septime Webre; Costume Design by Yoki Lai; Lighting Design: Ruby Yau

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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.