

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 21 May 2021

Sweet French Musical Bonbons!
This Saturday, A Journey to France with conductor Sylvain Gasançon,
HK Phil Principal Percussion Aziz D. Barnard Luce and Co-Principal Flute
Olivier Nowak

French Musical Bonbons (22 May, ONE performance only)

[21 May 2021, Hong Kong] This Saturday (22 May) at the Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) presents a delicious French concert, led by French conductor [Sylvain Gasançon](#), and featuring HK Phil Principal Percussion [Aziz D. Barnard Luce](#) in Milhaud's *Concerto for Percussion*, and Co-Principal Flute [Olivier Nowak](#) playing the first movement of Ibert's *Flute Concerto*.

The journey begins with Honegger's *Pastorale d'été* (Summer Pastoral), with colourful and impressionistic music evoking early morning in the Alps.

Two pieces by Ravel, one of France's greatest composers, are also featured – *Pavane pour une Infante défunte* (Pavane for a Dead Princess) and *Le Tombeau de Couperin* (The Tomb of Couperin). Ravel's mother came from the Basque Region on the borders of France and Spain, and the *Pavane* shows influences of his love of Spanish traditions. *Le Tombeau* is dedicated to the memory of Ravel's friends who died during the First World War, and its movements are based on the traditional structure of the Baroque Suite which the famous French composer Couperin also utilised.

Roussel's *Le festin de l'araignée* (The Spider's Feast) is a delicate piece of orchestral writing which follows the fate of numerous buzzing insects as they find themselves entangled within a spider's web, there to be kept until the spider decides it's time to eat!

French Musical Bonbons will be presented on **22 May 2021 (Sat)** at **8PM** in the **Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium**. Tickets are HK\$380, \$280 and \$180 and are available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Artists

Sylvain Gasançon, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Sylvain Gasançon won first prize in the International Eduardo Mata Conducting Competition in Mexico in 2005. The following year he was awarded second prize at the International Jorma Panula Conducting Competition in Vaasa, Finland. He has since quickly become an established conductor on the international scene, acclaimed for his powerful interpretations of music ranging range from Brahms to Berio, Messiaen, Korngold and Schoenberg.

Aziz D. Barnard Luce, percussion [\[full description\]](#)

A native of Washington D. C., Aziz D. Barnard Luce joined the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) as Principal Percussionist in 2011. Aziz holds degrees from Boston University as well as the New England Conservatory, graduating with academic honours, and has twice been awarded a Tanglewood Music Center fellowship. Before joining the HK Phil, Aziz was the Principal Percussionist of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra in Florida and has performed with the Boston Symphony and Boston Pops Orchestras.

Olivier Nowak, flute [\[full description\]](#)

Olivier Nowak joined the HK Phil in 2008 where he is currently Co-Principal Flute. In his native France he was regularly invited to perform in the Opéra de Paris Orchestra, as well as with the Radio France Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestre de Paris, the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris, the Orchestre Symphonique et Lyrique de Nancy (holding the Principal Flute position for the 2005/06 season interim), and others.

FRENCH MUSICAL BONBONS

22 | 5 | 2021

SAT 8PM

Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium

HK \$380 \$280 \$180

Tickets now available at URBIX; ONE performance only

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Sylvain Gasançon](#)

conductor

[Aziz D. Barnard Luce](#)

percussion

[Olivier Nowak](#)

flute

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Sylvain Gasançon



Aziz D. Barnard Luce

Photo Credit: Phil Shek



Olivier Nowak



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Eric Hong/HK Phil

Programme

HONEGGER

MILHAUD

RAVEL

IBERT

ROUSSEL

RAVEL

Pastorale d'été

Concerto for Percussion

Pavane pour une infante défunte

Flute Concerto: First Movement

Le festin de l'araignée: Symphonic Fragments

Le Tombeau de Couperin

Cultural Partner



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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.

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.