

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 3 June 2021

Jazz Up with the HK Phil and Ted Lo!
Star-studded Evening with HK Phil Principal Clarinet Andrew Simon, Angelita Li, Paulo Levi and more, performing music by Artie Shaw, Gershwin, John Lennon...

Swire Denim Series: HK Phil x Ted Lo | Jazz Up (4 & 5 June)

[3 June 2021, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is ready to jazz up the stage of the Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall with [Ted Lo](#) on 4 & 5 June, together with conductor [Sylvain Gasançon](#) and an array of stars, in a programme of soulful Jazz.

Kicking off the concert will be an excerpt from **Claude Bolling's Suite for Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Piano Trio** with **Ted Lo** on the piano, [Sylvain Gagnon](#) on the double bass, and [Anthony Fernandes](#) on drums. Grammy Award winner and lifetime admirer of Duke Ellington, Bolling devised his Suite to merge classical music with the music of the big bands. **Artie Shaw's Concerto for Clarinet**, features HK Phil Principal Clarinet [Andrew Simon](#), who will play the legendary altissimo C after some authentic boogie-woogie blues.

The second half of the concert includes jazz vocalist [Angelita Li](#) and saxophonist [Paulo Levi](#) in Gershwin's iconic "Summertime", [Talie Monin](#) in Ted Lo's arrangement of Richard Rogers and Lorenz Hart's "Bewitched", and the amazing [Howard McCrary](#) singing John Lennon's "Imagine". The concert also pays tribute to McCoy Tyner, the late avant-garde jazz pianist, with Ted Lo's original compositions, **Song for McCoy** and **Another Journey**.

Drum Set Sponsor: Tom Lee Music

HK Phil x Ted Lo | Jazz Up will be presented on **4 & 5 June 2021 (Fri & Sat)** at **8PM** in the **Hong Kong City Hall 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.

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 quickly become an established conductor in the international scene. He consistently receives public and critical acclaim for his powerful and musical interpretations.

Ted Lo, piano [\[full description\]](#)

In 1976 Hong Kong-born jazz pianist Ted Lo was the first Chinese graduate of Berklee College of Music in the United States. Lo began his career in jazz as a pianist in the Boston scene during the 70's. He made his recording debut on *Colors*, an album featuring the legendary Brazilian trombonist Raul de Souza, percussionist Jack DeJonnette and bassist Richie Davis. In 1977 Lo toured with the rock legend Al Kopper.

Andrew Simon, clarinet [\[full description\]](#)

"...he is one of the finest players I've heard ...competitive with the best of the best."

- Jerry Dubins, *Fanfare Magazine*

Boasting a distinguished career spanning over three decades, New York-born clarinetist Andrew Simon has appeared as soloist and guest lecturer on four continents.

Howard McCrary, vocalist [\[full description\]](#)

Howard McCrary is an award-winning singer, songwriter, producer and musician who traverses the worlds of gospel and secular music. He co-produced his gospel record, *So Good*, which was nominated for Best Gospel Performance, Male, at the Grammy Awards. In 1987 he was presented the ASCAP's Duke Ellington Award, and was commissioned to write *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* for the Brooklyn Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra.

Talie Monin, vocalist [\[full description\]](#)

Zulu South African contemporary jazz vocalist Talie Monin has enjoyed a spectacular rise through the top ranks of the global jazz elite after winning the "Audience Choice Award" at the 2018 Montreux Jazz Festival. In 2019 she released her wildly successful debut album *24 Strathay*, which top American jazz critic and head of programming at JazzWorks in the US called - "Exuberant elegance! This is a 21st century musical alchemy that's pointing jazz towards the future."

Angelita Li, vocalist [\[full description\]](#)

Angelita Li is a Hong Kong-born singer. She has travelled to, and lived in, Bangkok, Los Angeles, Singapore, Macau and Kuala Lumpur. Her repertoire stretches from Jazz to Rock to Brazilian. As a front liner, Li has three solo albums under her name, including Hong Kong's first Jazz vocal album in Chinese [*Uniq-Mystery*], and an International debut [*Caminhos Cruzados*] recorded in Denmark with Grammy winner Hans Ulrik and the "Unbelievable" Eugene Pao.

Paulo Levi, saxophone [\[full description\]](#)

Born in Belem do Para in the delta of the Amazon jungle, Paulo Levi began his career within the Baptist church, followed by a stint at the Carlos Gomes Conservatory of Music where as an exchange student he had a close connection to jazz in the USA NY. At 17 years old Paulo migrated to Paris where he learned to speak French and English, and was accepted at CSMDP as the first Latino-American student in the first class of improvisational music.

Sylvain Gagnon, double bass [\[full description\]](#)

Since his relocation to Hong Kong in 2000, Sylvain has been active in studio and performing, playing on hundreds of CDs and touring with local and international artists, including a world tour with Jackie Cheung, where he played 146 concerts for 2,800,000 people. His ability to play the double bass, electric bass, read well and arrange in a number of styles make him one of the most in-demand bassists in the region.

Anthony Fernandes, drums [\[full description\]](#)

Anthony Fernandes is a versatile drummer who has recorded more than 500 albums in different styles of music. He was placed on the Dean's List at the Dick Grove School of Music in Los Angeles as one of the best students for having completed the Arranging and Composing Program.

SWIRE DENIM SERIES: HK PHIL X TED LO | JAZZ UP

4 & 5 | 6 | 2021

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall

HK \$480 \$380 \$280

Tickets are now available at URBTIX, ticketflap and POPTICKET

For ages 6 and above

Drum Set Sponsor: Tom Lee Music

Artists

[Sylvain Gasançon](#)

conductor

[Ted Lo](#)

piano

[Andrew Simon](#)

clarinet

[Howard McCrary](#)

vocalist

[Talie Monin](#)

vocalist

[Angelita Li](#)

vocalist

[Paulo Levi](#)

saxophone

[Sylvain Gagnon](#)

double bass

[Anthony Fernades](#)

drums

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Sylvain Gasançon



Ted Lo



Andrew Simon



Howard McCrary



Talie Monin

Photo Credit: Ruby Law



Angelita Li



Paulo Levi



Sylvain Gagnon



Anthony Fernades



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Eric Hong/HK Phil

Programme

Claude **BOLLING**

Artie **SHAW**

Ted **LO**

Ted **LO**

GERSHWIN (arr. Ted LO)

Richard **ROGERS** & Lorenz **HART** (arr. Ted **LO**)

Ted **LO**

John **LENNON** (arr. Ted **LO**)

Ted **LO**

Suite for Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Piano Trio, excerpt

Concerto for Clarinet

The Overture/The Waltz

Just You

“Summertime”

“Bewitched”

Song For McCoy

“Imagine”

Another Journey

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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.