

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 15 August 2022

When Classic Meets Pop
A Refreshing and Nostalgic Musical Journey
by Lio Kuokman and Johnny Yim
Lio Kuokman x Johnny Yim | Journey of Time (2 & 3 Sep)

[15 August 2022, Hong Kong] The **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** will celebrate the coming of the 2022/23 Season with a refreshing and nostalgic musical journey of Cantopop classics re-arranged for symphony orchestra by Resident Conductor Lio Kuokman and renowned composer, arranger and producer Johnny Yim. Yim will also perform with the HK Phil as a solo pianist on stage. The concerts will be held in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall** on **2 & 3 September** (three performances).

Despite coming from different fields and genres of music, Lio and Yim break long-established boundaries between classical and pop music for their first collaboration on stage, with the hope to bring an amazing music enjoyment to the audience.

The programme consists of crowd-pleasing pop songs that are significant to Yim's musical journey, including beloved theme songs of animation series *Doraemon* and *Sailor Moon*, hits from Japanese singer-songwriters Utada Hikaru and Koji Tamaki, and Hong Kong legends such as Sam Hui, Leslie Cheung, Sammi Cheng and Hins Cheung. Apart from re-arranging pop songs for symphonic orchestra, Yim will join hands with the HK Phil as a solo pianist.

New-generation singers Gigi Yim Ming-hay, Windy Zhan Tian-wen and Archie Sin Ching-fung, from *STARS Academy*, will be the concerts' special guests.

Lio Kuokman x Johnny Yim | Journey of Time will be held on **2 & 3 September 2022** (8PM on Fri, 3PM & 8PM on Sat) at the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets priced at HK\$580, \$480, \$380 and \$280 are available on URBTIX and POPTICKET. For programme inquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or click on hkphil.org.

Artists

Lio Kuokman, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Currently serving as Resident Conductor of the HK Phil and Programme Director of the Macao International Music Festival, Lio is praised by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as "a startling conducting talent". He was the second prize winner of the third Svetlanov International Conducting Competition in Paris with Audience Prize and Orchestra Prize, and he has also served as the first Chinese Assistant Conductor with the Philadelphia Orchestra. In 2021, Lio was the recipient of the Hong Kong Ten Outstanding Young Persons award. In 2022, he was awarded Artist of the Year (Music) of the 16th Hong Kong Arts Development Awards and appointed a Justice of the Peace by the HKSAR Government.

Johnny Yim, piano/arranger [\[full description\]](#)

Johnny Yim started learning piano at the age of 6, first under a teacher, and then, since he was 13 years old on, as an autodidact. His breakthrough in the music industry took place in 2004, when he won the 16th C.A.S.H. Songwriting Quest in Hong Kong. This award propelled his versatile music career as a music arranger, producer, composer and concert director. As a professional musician, Yim has been awarded as a composer (34th and 37th RTHK music awards), arranger (2009 TVB / 2014 CRHK), and producer (2012 TVB / 2015 Cantopop Chart). Yim works with numerous well-established singers such as Alan Tam, Hins Cheung, Agatha Kong, Joyce Cheng, Alfred Hui, among others, as well as with upcoming talents from the singing contest show *STARS Academy* that TVB has recently launched.

LIO KUOKMAN X JOHNNY YIM | JOURNEY OF TIME

2 & 3 | 9 | 2022

FRI 8PM

SAT 3PM & 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK \$580 \$480 \$380 \$280

Tickets now available at URBTIX and POPTICKET

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Lio Kuokman](#)

conductor

[Johnny Yim](#)

piano/arranger

Gigi Yim Ming-hay

special guest

Windy Zhan Tian-wen

special guest

Archie Sin Ching-fung

special guest

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Lio Kuokman
Photography: Jane Chiang
Curation: Cerine Lee



Johnny Yim



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo Credit: Ka Lam/HK Phil

Programme

Chotto

《Chotto 等等》

Doraemon

《多啦 A 夢》

First Love

Impression

《印象》

Lover

《情人》

Sailor Moon

《美少女戰士》

Soul Ballad

《騷靈情歌》

Star

《明星》

Wine Red no Kokoro

《酒紅色的心》

and more pop music re-arranged by Johnny Yim

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden, SBS

Principal Guest Conductor: Yu Long

Resident Conductor: Lio Kuokman, JP

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. Recently the HK Phil won the prestigious UK classical music magazine *Gramophone's* 2019 Orchestra of the Year Award – the first orchestra in Asia to receive this accolade.

Jaap van Zweden, SBS, one of today's most sought-after conductors, has been the orchestra's Music Director since the 2012/13 Season, a position he holds until the end of the 2023/24 Season. 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, JP has been appointed Resident Conductor since December 2020.

Under the dynamic leadership of Jaap van Zweden, the HK Phil has attained new heights of artistic excellence, receiving 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 were enthusiastically received by audiences, and the live Naxos recordings were praised by critics and garnered the *Gramophone* Orchestra of the Year Award 2019.

The HK Phil has toured extensively across Mainland China and, with the support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, it 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 of the People's Republic of China.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Joshua Bell, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, Renée Fleming, Ning Feng, Stephen Hough, Evgeny Kissin, Katia and Marielle Labèque, Lang Lang, Yo-Yo Ma, Leonard Slatkin and Yuja Wang.

The HK Phil promotes the work of Hong Kong and Chinese composers through an active commissioning programme, and it 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 The HKAPA's School of Music to facilitate 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.

Thanks to a significant subsidy from the Government of the HKSAR and long-term funding from Principal Patron Swire, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and other supporters, the HK Phil now boasts a full-time annual schedule of core classical repertoire and innovative popular programming, extensive education and community programmes, and collaborations with, amongst others, Hong Kong Ballet, Opera Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

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 registered 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.