

Internationally Acclaimed Soloists Light Up the Stage with Exciting Programmes Conducted by HK Phil Music Director Jaap van Zweden

Swire Maestro Series: Jaap | Mahler 1 (18 & 19 November)

Jaap | Jan Vogler Plays Elgar (2 & 3 December)

Jaap | Shostakovich 5 (9 & 10 December)

Jaap | Niu Niu Plays Tchaikovsky (16 & 17 December)

[9 November 2022, Hong Kong] From November to December 2022, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) will present a superb line-up of programmes led by HK Phil Music Director Jaap van Zweden. Four virtuoso artists – HK Phil Concertmaster Jing Wang, cellist Jan Vogler, violinist Akiko Suwanai and pianist Niu Niu – will join Jaap at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets are now available at URBTIX and POPTICKET.

Swire Maestro Series: Jaap | Mahler 1 (18 & 19 November)

Together with the HK Phil and Music Director Jaap van Zweden, the audience embarks on a truly epic musical adventure as HK Phil Concertmaster Jing Wang steps into the spotlight for the world premiere of John Borstlap's second violin concerto. Jing performs on a 1757 G.B. Guadagnini "Ex-Brodsky" violin, loaned generously by an anonymous benefactor. Nicknamed "Titan", Mahler's First Symphony takes us further on a musical journey – from its opening which the composer described as "like the sound of nature" to its heroic finale.

Swire Maestro Series: Jaap | Mahler 1 will be held on 18 & 19 November 2022 (Fri & Sat) at 8PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$680, \$560, \$420 and \$300 are available at URBTIX and POPTICKET. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Jaap | Jan Vogler Plays Elgar (2 & 3 December)

The landscape is a constant inspiration for English composers. The concert opens with Britten's *Peter Grimes*: Four Sea Interludes, a beautiful depiction of the sea in all its moods. Elgar retreated to the countryside, and wrote a cello concerto filled with the poetry of autumn. Celebrated Jan Vogler is its interpreter in these performances. There is a complete change of scene, as Jaap van Zweden conducts Shostakovich's witty but powerful Ninth Symphony to conclude the programme.

Jaap | Jan Vogler Plays Elgar will be held on 2 & 3 December 2022 (Fri & Sat) at 8PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$680, \$560, \$420 and \$300 are available at URBTIX and POPTICKET. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Jaap | Shostakovich 5 (9 & 10 December)

Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony was a matter of life and death for the composer, and every note blazes with conviction; it's one of 20th century music's most unforgettable experiences. World-acclaimed violinist Akiko Suwanai is featured in Prokofiev's First Violin Concerto, a brilliant work filled with lush, lyrical romanticism and strikingly original harmonies. The concert opens with the world premiere of *A Wise Man* by rising Hong Kong composer, Simon Yip Sai-man. It was commissioned by the HK Phil under the second edition of The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong Composers Scheme.

Jaap | Shostakovich 5 will be held on 9 & 10 December 2022 (Fri & Sat) at 8PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$680, \$560, \$420 and \$300 are available at URBTIX and POPTICKET. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Niu Niu Plays Tchaikovsky (16 & 17 December)

Renowned pianist Niu Niu and Jaap van Zweden join forces in two of Tchaikovsky's best-loved masterpieces in this concert: the shattering Sixth Symphony and the romantic First Piano Concerto. Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto stands as one of the most popular pieces of classical music. The second half of the concert is devoted to Tchaikovsky's last work, the *Pathétique* Symphony. Its deep, passionate emotion has captivated audiences ever since its premiere.

Niu Niu Plays Tchaikovsky will be held on 16 & 17 December 2022 (Fri & Sat) at 8PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$680, \$560, \$420 and \$300 are available at URBTIX and POPTICKET. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Artists

Jaap van Zweden, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Over the past decade, conductor Jaap van Zweden has become an international presence on three continents. Currently Music Director of the HK Phil, he is also Music Director of the New York Philharmonic and Conductor Laureate of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared as guest conductor with leading orchestras such as, in Europe, the Orchestre de Paris, Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, the Berlin Philharmonic and the London Symphony Orchestra, and, in the US, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra and Los Angeles Philharmonic.

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, Jing has garnered prizes in top international competitions, including the first prize at the 2007 Irving M. Klein International Strings Competition. In 2003, he 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 part of the award, his first CD album including works by Beethoven, Ravel and Gershwin was released in Europe. He has been Concertmaster of the HK Phil since 2013.

Jan Vogler, cello [\[full description\]](#)

Jan Vogler's distinguished career has brought him together with renowned conductors and internationally acclaimed orchestras around the world, such as the New York Philharmonic, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. His great ability allowed him to explore the sound boundaries of the cello and to establish an intensive dialogue with contemporary composers and artists. *The New York Times* praised his "soulful, richly hued playing" and the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung granted him the ability "to make his cello speak like a singing voice".

Akiko Suwanai, violin [\[full description\]](#)

Japanese violinist Akiko Suwanai has established herself as one of the most sought-after artists of her generation. Since winning the International Tchaikovsky Competition in 1990, she has enjoyed a flourishing career, engaging at the highest-level performing chamber music and with orchestras and conductors internationally. Highlights of her 2022/23 Season include appearances at the Stresa Festival with Basel Symphony and weeks with Duisburg Symphoniker/Bellincampi and NSO Taiwan/Markl showcasing her wide repertoire with concertos by Mozart, Korngold, Takemitsu and Ravel.

Niu Niu, piano [\[full description\]](#)

Niu Niu is the stage name of Zhang Shengliang. He signed to EMI Classics at the age of nine, making him the youngest pianist ever signed to an international classical label. Since then, he has released eight albums. Released in 2021, his latest album *Fate & Hope* includes his debut composition *Hope*. As part of the campaign in support of the album, he embarked on a world tour in the 2021/22 Season. He dubbed the piano part in NHK's animated version of *Piano no Mori* (Forest of Piano), broadcast by Netflix worldwide.

SWIRE MAESTRO SERIES: JAAP | MAHLER 1

18 & 19 | 11 | 2022

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$680 \$560 \$420 \$300

Tickets now available at URBIX and POPTICKET

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#) conductor
[Jing Wang](#) violin

Programme

John BORSTLAP Violin Concerto no. 2, *Dreamscape Voyage* (World Premiere)
MAHLER Symphony no. 1

JAAP | JAN VOGLER PLAYS ELGAR

2 & 3 | 12 | 2022

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$680 \$560 \$420 \$300

Tickets now available at URBIX and POPTICKET

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#) conductor
[Jan Vogler](#) cello

Programme

BRITTEN *Peter Grimes: Four Sea Interludes*
ELGAR Cello Concerto
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony no. 9

JAAP | SHOSTAKOVICH 5

9 & 10 | 12 | 2022

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$680 \$560 \$420 \$300

Tickets now available at URBIX and POPTICKET

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#) conductor
[Akiko Suwanai](#) violin

Programme

Simon YIP Sai-man *A Wise Man* (World Premiere)*
PROKOFIEV Violin Concerto no. 1
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony no. 5

*New commission from the HK Phil under The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong Composers Scheme.

NIU NIU PLAYS TCHAIKOVSKY

16 & 17 | 12 | 2022

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$680 \$560 \$420 \$300

Tickets now available at URBTIX and POPTICKET

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#)

conductor

[Niu Niu](#)

piano

Programme

TCHAIKOVSKY

Piano Concerto no. 1

TCHAIKOVSKY

Symphony no. 6, *Pathétique*

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Jaap van Zweden

Photo: Eric Hong



Jing Wang

Photo: Keith Hiro



Jan Vogler

Photo: Marco Grob



Akiko Suwanai

Photo: Leslie Kee



Niu Niu

Photo: Paul Tsang



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo: Ka Lam/HK Phil

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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 will hold 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. Founded in 2021, "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.