

PRESS RELEASE
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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Announces its 2022/23 Season Programmes from January to July 2023

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[5 December 2022, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is thrilled to announce 20 mainstage programmes and a selection of chamber music concerts for the second phase of its 2022/23 Season from January to July 2023. An array of virtuoso guest conductors and a stellar line-up of artists will be featured in stunning performances. Tickets will be available on URBTIX from 14 December 2022 (Wednesday) at 10AM. Let's continue to sing an Ode to Life!

Highlights

Highlights of the 2022/23 Season Programmes (January - July 2023) include concerts led by HK Phil Music Director Jaap van Zweden and other eminent conductors including Anja Bihlmaier, Stéphane Denève, Christoph Eschenbach, Paavo Järvi, Tarmo Peltokoski, Vasily Petrenko and Krzysztof Urbanski. Acclaimed soloists include violinists Ray Chen, Ning Feng and Leonidas Kavakos; horn players from The German Horn Sound; organist Olivier Latry; pianists Boris Giltburg, Chiyan Wong, Zee Zee and Zhang Haochen; vocalists Valentina Farcas, Thomas E. Bauer and more.

HK Phil principals and musicians including Nitiphum Bamrungbanthum, Jarod Vermette, Paul Luxenberg, Lorenzo Losco, Lin Jiang, Russell Bonifede will perform as soloists.

The HK Phil will present the world premiere of *The Metaverse* Symphony by Hong Kong composer Elliot Leung and will collaborate with HK singer-songwriter Ivana Wong to also premiere her new orchestral works.

Chamber music will be presented in different venues across Hong Kong partnering with West Kowloon Cultural District's Freespace, Tea House Theatre and Hong Kong Palace Museum, as well as The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and HKU MUSE.

Music Director Jaap van Zweden

- HK Phil Music Director Jaap van Zweden and the HK Phil will embark together on their first complete cycle of Brahms' four symphonies – the songful and sunlit Second symphony and the brooding, tragic Fourth (20 January 2023); then the romantic Third followed by the gripping First symphony (27 January 2023).
- Jaap will also conduct Bach's *St Matthew Passion*, a universal work that people of all religions can enjoy. These performances assemble world-class soloists tenor Nicholas Phan, bass-baritone Davóne Tines, soprano Amanda Forsythe, mezzo-soprano Tamara Mumford, tenor Paul Appleby and bass-baritone Apollo Wong, together with State Choir Latvija, The Hong Kong Children's Choir and HK Phil Chorus to perform this masterpiece (3 & 4 February 2023).
- Don't miss Jaap leading HK Phil's first performances of Messiaen's *Turangalila-Symphonie* with its super-sized orchestra, dash of Hindu philosophy, star pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and Cynthia Millar on ondes martenot – an electronic instrument straight out of science fiction (10 & 11 February 2023).

Principal Guest Conductor Yu Long

- HK Phil Principal Guest Conductor Yu Long will conduct Rachmaninov's powerful *Symphonic Dances* and sweeping Third Piano Concerto with Van Cliburn competition winner Zhang Haochen. The performance on 26 May is sponsored by CMB Wing Lung Bank (26 & 27 May 2023).

Other renowned Conductors and Soloists

- Opening the second half of the 2022/23 season, renowned conductor Vasily Petrenko, currently Royal Philharmonic Orchestra music director, will mark his HK Phil debut with two programmes in two weeks: Richard Strauss' *Ein Heldenleben*, Elgar's *Cockaigne Overture*, and Sibelius' Violin Concerto with Ning Feng (6 & 7 January 2023). In his next programme (Swire Maestro Series), Petrenko collaborates with pianist Boris Giltburg in Prokofiev's glittering Third Piano Concerto, followed by Rachmaninov's epic and passionate Second Symphony (13 & 14 January 2023).
- Guest conductor Christoph Eschenbach brings Bruckner's Fourth Symphony, one of the composer's most popular works, to the Hong Kong audience. Opening these Swire Maestro Series concerts, superstar violinist Ray Chen plays Mendelssohn's sparkingly tuneful Violin Concerto (31 March & 1 April 2023).
- Eminent Estonian conductor Paavo Järvi presents a heroic celebration of Finland's native wonders with Sibelius' Fifth Symphony, which is a noble counterpart to Liszt's tempestuous Second Piano Concerto, played by the fabulous pianist Zee Zee (7 & 8 April 2023).
- Prompted by the death of his mother and inspired by the music of Bach, Brahms' *A German Requiem* draws its text from the German-language Bible translated by Martin Luther. Renowned German Chorusmaster Ralf Otto conducts the HK Phil Chorus for this masterpiece, joined by soprano Valentina Farcas and baritone Thomas E. Bauer (21 & 22 April 2023).
- Dvořák's symphony "From the New World" sounds as stirring and melodious today as when it was first heard 130 years ago. Guest conductor Krzysztof Urbanski brings an energy that is all his own, and joins Hong Kong-born pianist Chiyan Wong in Busoni's *Indian Fantasy* (28 & 29 April 2023).
- For Schumann, the horn was the most romantic of all instruments. The four brilliant players of The German Horn Sound, alongside HK Phil's principal and co-principal horn players, weave the special magic in two extraordinary showpieces for four horns and orchestra. German conductor Anja Bihlmaier opens these concerts with Wagner's spectacular *Flying Dutchman* overture (2 & 3 June 2023).
- French conductor Stéphane Denève takes the HK Phil on a fantastic French journey, performing Saint-Saëns' *Organ* Symphony, an electrifying showcase for the Hong King Cultural Centre's magnificent 8,000-pipe organ. Notre-Dame Cathedral organist Olivier Latry is also featured in Poulenc's Organ Concerto on this Swire Maestro Series concert (9 & 10 June 2023).

- For the truly spectacular season finale, the HK Phil welcomes the superb young Finnish Maestro Tarmo Peltokoski. The concert opens with Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto played by the incomparable Leonidas Kavakos, and concludes with Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony, a true 20th century thriller (30 June & 1 July 2023).
- For the truly spectacular season finale, rising young Finnish conductor Tarmo Peltokoski will conclude the 2022/23 Season with Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto played by the incomparable Leonidas Kavakos (30 June & 1 July 2023).

Beyond Classical

- **Celebrating John Williams**

A programme dedicated to the greatest of all film-composers – John Williams. The concert includes music from *Jaws*, *Schindler's List*, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, *E.T.*, *Jurassic Park* and *Star Wars*. Conducted by Benjamin Northey, this Swire Denim Series programme also features HK Phil Principal Tuba Paul Luxenburg in the third movement of Williams' Tuba Concerto (25 & 26 February 2023).

- **Music for the Kids**

Merregnon: Land of Silence tells the symphonic fairy tale of orphan Miru, who embarks on an adventure to discover why her land is cloaked in mysterious silence. Performed through music, narration and illustrations, it presents the wonder of orchestral sounds connecting audiences of all ages. These Swire Denim Series concerts are conducted by Lorenzo Losco with presenter Vivek Mahbubani (17 & 18 March 2023).

- **Movie-in-Concert**

The film that gave the world one of its greatest movie heroes, Indiana Jones, is back and better than ever before. Relive the magic of *Raiders of the Lost Ark* on the silver screen with John Williams' epic score performed live by a full symphony orchestra under the baton of Benjamin Northey. The evening performances on 14 & 15 April are sponsored by Centurion (14 & 15 April 2023).

- **The First Art Tech Programme**

To extend the horizon of creativity in arts with innovative technology, the HK Phil launches its first Art Tech programme – the world premiere of *The Metaverse Symphony* by Hong Kong composer Elliot Leung. Co-commissioned by the HK Phil and Asia Society Hong Kong Center, it is the world's first symphonic work to be performed in both a concert hall and The Sandbox metaverse (5 & 6 May 2023).

- **HK Phil x Ivana Wong**

Hong Kong singer-songwriter Ivana Wong has been working on her Total Art project "the missing something". Coming to the third chapter, "I'm not sure what to go with coffee: Iceland, that piano, or your portrait?" features her new orchestral work performed live by the HK Phil. Ivana takes a double role as composer and artist to embark on her poetic, musical journey. The opening night concert on 12 May is title sponsored by United Overseas Bank (12 & 13 May 2023).

- **Joe Hisaishi Returns!**

Beloved Japanese composer-conductor Joe Hisaishi returns to Hong Kong to perform his music, including his Second Symphony, *Woman*, and the ever-popular *Princess Mononoke* Symphonic Suite, featuring soprano Louise Kwong. Cathay is the title sponsor. Details to be announced in May 2023.

Music Making for the Community

- **Swire Community Concert**

The HK Phil's community concerts present all-time favourite classics to music lovers free of charge. In this lively performance, Jaap van Zweden and the HK Phil show the audience how great composers can whirl you around the world: From knights and princesses of medieval Germany to Tan Dun's concerto originating from video game music, this concert is an adventure for all ages. Starring fabulous HK Phil Trumpet Nitiphum Bamrungbanthum & Principal Trombone Jarod Vermette, it will be an adventure for the ears (28 January 2023).

The Swire Community Concert is title sponsored by Swire.

Chamber Music Series

- **HK Phil @ Freespace**

A jazz chamber music concert highlighting the music of Ella Fitzgerald, along with other jazz greats, will come to Freespace at the West Kowloon Cultural District. Vocalist Talie Monin joins HK Phil musicians (10 & 11 April 2023).

A concert uniquely pairing works by eminent Estonian composer Erkki-Sven Tüür and emerging Hong Kong composer Olivier Cong. A composition masterclass, at which Tüür will talk about the craft of composition and what inspires his works, will precede the concert (30 May 2023).

- **HK Phil @ Tea House**

Two unforgettable "East-meets-West" concerts, namely "Spirited Strings" (9 January 2023) and "Musical Postcards" (20 February 2023), will be held at the West Kowloon Cultural District's Tea House Theatre. Each features an extraordinary curation of Chinese and Western music.

- **HK Phil @ HKPM**

The HK Phil partners with the Hong Kong Palace Museum to present fun, educational free concerts for the Dim Sum Series of HKPM SHOWTIME!, offering interactive performances with unique perspectives and fascinating dialogues (15 January, 30 April & 25 June 2023).

- **HK Phil @ HKU MUSE**

The HK Phil and HKU MUSE are pleased to continue their Orchestral Spotlights series, bringing the HK Phil's double bass (5 March 2023) and horn (4 June 2023) sections to the fore at The University of Hong Kong's Grand Hall.

- **HK Phil @ HKUST**

An ongoing collaboration with The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology's Shaw Auditorium presents HK Phil musicians in two diverse programmes – contemporary brass and percussion music (5 February 2023), and chamber music with renowned soprano Valentina Farcas (23 April 2023).

Discount Scheme at URBTIX

In 2022/23 Season January to July 2023, the HK Phil continues to offer a flexible ticketing scheme with attractive discounts at URBTIX. For standard tickets, the general public can enjoy up to 15% off, while Club Bravo members are entitled up to an exclusive 30% discount, plus other upgraded privileges and benefits. The more programmes you purchase, the more you save. Tickets will be available on URBTIX from 14 December 2022 (Wednesday) at 10AM.

<u>HK Phil 2022/23 Season</u> <u>January to July 2023 Programmes</u>		
No. of Programmes	1 – 3	≥ 4
Public Discounts	-	15% off
Club Bravo Member Discounts	15% off	30% off

How to Book at URBTIX

In Person: Visit any URBTIX outlet

Online: Visit URBTIX website www.urbtix.hk

Telephone: Credit Card Booking (available 10AM – 8PM daily) at 3166 1288

Mobile App: URBTIX

For ticketing details, please refer to pages 54 to 55 of the Programme Brochure.

Club Bravo

Starting from 2023, an upgraded Club Bravo membership scheme will be launched. The revamped all-in-one website allows everyone to sign up for membership, earn points and redeem for rewards on a single platform. For details, please visit bravo.hkphil.org. Stay tuned for more updates.

Thank You Partners

The HK Phil would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to the following partners for their support:

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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 one of Asia's foremost classical orchestras. 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 was appointed Resident Conductor in 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.