

## **Music Director Jaap van Zweden Opens the HK Phil's 50<sup>th</sup> Professional Season with Celebrated Soloists Joshua Bell and Rudolf Buchbinder**

Season Opening: Jaap & Joshua Bell (8 & 9 September)

Jaap & Rudolf Buchbinder I & II (15 & 16 September)

Records of the Times: A Journey Through the HK Phil Archive (27 August – 9 September)

**[18 August 2023, Hong Kong]** To mark its 50<sup>th</sup> professional season, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) and its Music Director Jaap van Zweden will present two programmes in two consecutive weeks of September, along with renowned violinist Joshua Bell (8 & 9 September) and pianist Rudolf Buchbinder (15 & 16 September) respectively, in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. In addition, a special exhibition titled "Records of the Times: A Journey Through the HK Phil Archive" will be held at the foyer of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre from 27 August to 9 September. The exhibition will feature a collection of the HK Phil's treasured histories. Join us this season to celebrate the HK Phil's golden jubilee!

### **Season Opening: Jaap & Joshua Bell (8 & 9 September)**

In the season opener, Jaap van Zweden and the HK Phil will present the Asia Premiere of *The Elements* (originated by Joshua Bell), a collaborative work by five leading American composers – Jake Heggie (*Fire*), Jennifer Higdon (*Air*), Edgar Meyer (*Water*), Jessie Montgomery (*Space*) and Kevin Puts (*Earth, Earth (reprise and finale)*). Commissioned and performed by Grammy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell, this unique endeavour was conceived during the early moments of the pandemic as a celebration of the beauty in the natural world. Finally, van Zweden concludes the concert with Tchaikovsky's Symphony no. 4.

"Season Opening: Jaap & Joshua Bell" will be held on 8 & 9 September 2023 (Fri & Sat) at 8PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$1,080, \$880, \$680 and \$480 are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](http://hkphil.org).

*Title Sponsor of Opening Night Concert: UOB Hong Kong*  
*International Media Partner: The New York Times*

### **Jaap & Rudolf Buchbinder I & II (15 & 16 September)**

Renowned pianist Rudolf Buchbinder will join forces with Jaap van Zweden and the HK Phil in the following week. Regarded as one of the legendary performers of our time, Buchbinder is renowned for his unparalleled interpretations of Beethoven's works. In these programmes, he performs Beethoven's popular Piano Concertos nos. 4 and 5. The concerts kick off with Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides* and String Symphony no. 13 respectively, complemented by the composer's *Scottish* and *Italian* symphonies in two consecutive evenings.

"Jaap & Rudolf Buchbinder I & II" will be held on 15 & 16 September 2023 (Fri & Sat) at 8PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$780, \$620, \$480, \$300 and \$50 (Friday only) are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](http://hkphil.org).

## **Records of the Times: A Journey Through the HK Phil Archive (27 August – 9 September)**

As the HK Phil steps into its 50<sup>th</sup> professional season, an exhibition will be held to commemorate this special occasion. A collection of the HK Phil's archival materials, including its marketing materials, concert programmes, official correspondences and photographs, will be showcased to the public, allowing them to retrace its footsteps from the past and discover the stories that have propelled the HK Phil to its esteemed status as one of Asia's foremost classical orchestras today. Featuring the debuts of world-renowned artists Joshua Bell and Yo-Yo Ma with the HK Phil, the exhibition provides an opportunity to revisit the history of the orchestra and that of Hong Kong.

"Records of the Times: A Journey Through the HK Phil Archive" exhibition welcomes visitors of all ages with free admission. It will be held at the foyer of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre from 27 August to 9 September 2023.

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### **Artists**

#### **SEASON OPENING: JAAP & JOSHUA BELL and JAAP & RUDOLF BUCHBINDER I & II**

##### **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. He has appeared as guest conductor with leading orchestras such as, in Europe, the Orchestra 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 the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

#### **SEASON OPENING: JAAP & JOSHUA BELL**

##### **Joshua Bell, violin** [\[full description\]](#)

With a career spanning almost four decades, Grammy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell is one of the most celebrated artists of his era. He has performed with virtually every major orchestra in the world, and continues to maintain engagements as a soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, and conductor. In 2011, Bell was named Music Director of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, succeeding Sir Neville Marriner, who formed the orchestra in 1959. As an exclusive Sony Classical artist, Bell has recorded more than 40 albums, garnering Grammy, Mercury, *Gramophone* and Opus Klassik awards.

#### **JAAP & RUDOLF BUCHBINDER I & II**

##### **Rudolf Buchbinder, piano** [\[full description\]](#)

Rudolf Buchbinder is one of the legendary performers of our time. The authority of a career spanning 65 years is uniquely combined with esprit and spontaneity in his piano playing. Tradition and innovation, faithfulness and freedom, authenticity and open-mindedness merge in his reading of the great piano literature. He is an honorary member of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Wien, the Wiener Konzerthausgesellschaft, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the first soloist to be awarded the Golden Badge of Honour by the Staatskapelle Dresden. His interpretations of the works of Ludwig van Beethoven in particular are regarded as setting standards.

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## SEASON OPENING: JAAP & JOSHUA BELL

8 & 9 | 9 | 2023

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$1080 \$880 \$680 \$480

Tickets now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#)

conductor

[Joshua Bell](#)

violin

[Download](#) press images



Jaap van Zweden  
Photo: Eric Hong/HK Phil



Joshua Bell  
Photo: Shervin Lainez



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra  
Photo: Ka Lam/HK Phil

### Programme

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
|                   | <i>The Elements</i> (originated and commissioned by Joshua Bell)<br>(Asia Premiere) |
| Kevin PUTS        | <i>Earth</i>  |
| Edgar MEYER       | <i>Water</i>  |
| Jake HEGGIE       | <i>Fire</i>   |
| Jennifer HIGDON   | <i>Air</i>  |
| Jessie MONTGOMERY | <i>Space</i>  |
| Kevin PUTS        | <i>Earth (reprise and finale)</i>   |
| TCHAIKOVSKY       | Symphony no. 4  |

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## JAAP & RUDOLF BUCHBINDER I

15 | 9 | 2023  
FRI 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall  
HK\$780 \$620 \$480 \$300 \$50  
Tickets now available at URBTIX  
For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#) conductor  
[Rudolf Buchbinder](#) piano

### Programme

**MENDELSSOHN** *The Herbrides*  
**BEETHOVEN** Piano Concerto no. 4  
**MENDELSSOHN** Symphony no.3, *Scottish*

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## JAAP & RUDOLF BUCHBINDER II

16 | 9 | 2023  
SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall  
HK\$780 \$620 \$480 \$300  
Tickets now available at URBTIX  
For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#) conductor  
[Rudolf Buchbinder](#) piano

### Programme

**MENDELSSOHN** String Symphony no. 13, *Sinfoniesatz*  
**BEETHOVEN** Piano Concerto no. 5, *Emperor*  
**MENDELSSOHN** Symphony no. 4, *Italian*

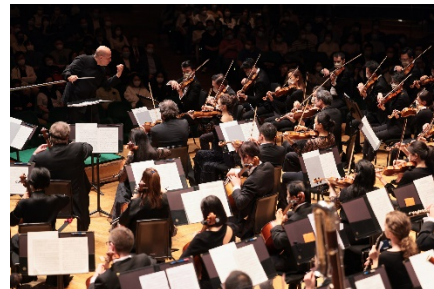
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**Jaap van Zweden**  
Photo: Eric Hong/HK Phil



**Rudolf Buchbinder**  
Photo: Marco Borggreve



**Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**  
Photo: Keith Hiro/HK Phil

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## RECORDS OF THE TIMES: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HK PHIL ARCHIVE

27 | 8 – 8 | 9 | 2023

10AM – 10PM

9 | 9 | 2023

10AM – 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Foyer

Free admission and all ages welcome

[Download](#) press images



Joshua Bell's debut with the HK Phil (1994)

Photo: HK Phil



Yo-Yo Ma was due to appear with the HK Phil in December 1985. Nevertheless, he was unable to come to Hong Kong owing to illness. His debut with the HK Phil was postponed to 1986.

Photo: 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 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. 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. Following his tenure as Music Director, he will hold the title of Conductor Laureate. Jaap 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 well received, 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. The orchestra undertook a major tour in 2017 to Seoul, Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne and Sydney in celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. In the 2023/24 Season, the orchestra will embark on global tours to more than 18 cities.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Anja Bihlmaier, Stéphane Denève, Christoph Eschenbach, Paavo Järvi, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Tarmo Peltokoski, Vasily Petrenko, Krzysztof Urbanski, Ning Feng, Boris Giltburg, Leonidas Kavakos, Olivier Latry and Akiko Suwanai. 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, each conducting their own compositions.

The HK Phil runs diverse education and community programmes in schools, hospitals and outdoor spaces, bringing 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 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.

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.