

PRESS RELEASE
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The HK Phil Tours Seven Cities in Mainland Tour with Long Yu, Paloma So and Jian Wang Two Pre-Tour Concerts to be held in Hong Kong on 3 & 4 May 2024

[24 April 2024, Hong Kong] After the resounding success of the recent Singapore and Europe tour, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) will embark on a massive Mainland tour spanning seven cities in May 2024. Led by HK Phil Principal Guest Conductor Long Yu, the orchestra will join hands with wunderkind violinist Paloma So and the acclaimed cellist Jian Wang, presenting an enticing East-meets-West programme.

The orchestra's forthcoming Mainland Tour will be held in Wuxi Grand Theatre on 8 May, Shanghai Oriental Art Center on 9 May, Wuhan Qintai Concert Hall on 11 May, Changsha Concert Hall on 12 May, Harbin Concert Hall on 15 May, Shenyang Shengjing Grand Theatre on 16 May and Beijing National Centre for the Performing Arts on 18 May. The tour is generously supported by the Beijing Office, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan, and the Liaoning Liaison Unit of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Acclaimed violinist Paloma So will perform Chen Gang and He Zhanhao's *Butterfly Lovers* Violin Concerto, a cherished work that blends elements of Chinese folk music with Western classical music. Celebrated cellist Jian Wang will captivate the audience with his solo performance for Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme*, showcasing the composer's mastery in crafting graceful and elegant melodies.

Most concerts will open with selections from Yuankai Bao's *Chinese Sights and Sounds*, including "Flowing Stream", "Going to West Gate" and "Dialogue on Flowers". This orchestral suite brilliantly depicts Chinese cultural traditions using traditional folk melodies. The concerts will culminate with either Dvořák's Symphony no. 9 or Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, both offering a rich and dynamic musical experience. The former intricately weaves together folk melodies from the composer's Czech homeland with the exuberant sounds of America. The latter is best known for its colourful orchestration, exotic melodies and vivid portrayal of Arabian tales from *One Thousand and One Nights*. Alongside the concerts, a series of education and outreach events will be held to promote orchestral music to students and the community.

Currently 18-year-old, Paloma So is recognised by critics as a "rising star of the violin world", while her playing is described as being "powerful, dramatic, and compelling... awfully good" by *The Strad Magazine*. At the age of 10, she won the Second Prize at the prestigious International Wieniawski Competition for Young Violinists in Lublin, Poland. In the following year, she went on to win the Gold Prize at the 8th International Violin Competition in Novosibirsk, Russia, as the youngest participant in the competition's history.

Praised by New York Concert Review as "brilliant, extremely musical, and sensitive" for his performance of *Variations on a Rococo Theme*, Jian Wang has collaborated with many of the world's leading orchestras, including the London Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestre de Paris, and the NHK Symphony Orchestra. Amongst his high-profile concerts in China, he has opened the seasons for the China Philharmonic, Shanghai Symphony, and Macao Orchestras. He recently graced the stages of the China National Symphony Orchestra and Hangzhou Philharmonic Orchestra.

Prior to the tour, Hong Kong audiences can take a sneak peek in the "Mainland Pre-Tour Concert: Mendelssohn Violin Concerto" concert on 3 May (Fri) at 8pm and "Mainland Pre-Tour Concert: Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto" on 4 May (Sat) at 8pm in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$420, \$340, \$260, \$180, and \$50 (Friday only) are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Artists

Long Yu, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “the most powerful figure in China’s classical music scene,” Long Yu has devoted his career to steering China’s growing connection to classical music while familiarising international audiences with the country’s most eminent musicians and composers. Yu is the Artistic Director of the China Philharmonic Orchestra in Beijing and Music Director of Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, as well as Principal Guest Conductor of the HK Phil. He is also Co-Director of Shanghai’s Music in the Summer Air (MISA) festival and Chair of the Artistic Committee of the Beijing Music Festival, and Honorary Music Director and the Chair of the Artistic Committee of Guangzhou Symphony. He is currently Vice President of the China Musicians Association and Chairman of the League of China Orchestras.

Paloma So, violin [\[full description\]](#)

18-year-old Paloma So is perceived by music critics as a “rising star of the violin world” in view of her significant performance history, with her playing described as being “powerful, dramatic, and compelling . . . awfully good” by *The Strad* Magazine. Paloma has studied with Russian pedagogue Zakhar Bron since the age of nine, and graduated last year from the Juilliard School Pre-College Programme, under the tutelage of Catherine Cho and Donald Weilerstein. She is currently in her first year studying at the Harvard-New England Conservatory Dual Degree Programme with Professor Weilerstein, where she received a full merit scholarship; and is also under the artistic mentorship of Professor Eduard Wulfson.

Jian Wang, cello [\[full description\]](#)

Jian Wang has performed with many of the world’s leading orchestras including the London Symphony, Cleveland, Zurich Tonhalle, NDR Elbphilharmonie, Stockholm Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris and NHK Symphony. These concerts have been with many of the greatest conductors, such as Chung, Dudamel, Elder, Eschenbach, Gilbert, Harding, Neeme Jarvi, Langrée, van Zweden, Wigglesworth and Szeps-Znaider. Recent and future highlights include concerts with the New York, Netherlands Radio and Seoul Philharmonic Orchestras; Boston, Chicago, Toronto and Singapore Symphony Orchestras, the Konzerthausorchester Berlin and Philharmonia. Amongst his many high-profile concerts in China, he has opened the season for the China Philharmonic, Shanghai Symphony and Macau Orchestras as well as performing with the China National Orchestra and Hangzhou Symphony.

MAINLAND PRE-TOUR CONCERT: MENDELSSOHN VIOLIN CONCERTO

3 | 5 | 2024

FRI 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$420 \$340 \$260 \$180 \$50

Tickets now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

Programme

BAO Yuankai	<i>Chinese Sights and Sounds: Flowing Stream / Going to West Gate / Dialogue on Flowers</i>
MENDELSSOHN	Violin Concerto
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV	<i>Scheherazade</i>

Artists

Long Yu	conductor
Paloma So	violin

MAINLAND PRE-TOUR CONCERT: BUTTERFLY LOVERS VIOLIN CONCERTO

4 | 5 | 2024

SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$420 \$340 \$260 \$180

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

Programme

CHEN Gang / HE Zhanhao

Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto

TCHAIKOVSKY

Variations on a Rococo Theme

DVOŘÁK

Symphony no. 9, From the New World

Artists

[Long Yu](#)

conductor

[Paloma So](#)

violin

[Jian Wang](#)

cello

MAINLAND TOUR

Wuxi

8 | 5 | 2024

WED 7:30PM

Wuxi Grand Theatre

RMB880 RMB680 RMB480 RMB380 RMB280

<https://wxdiy.polyt.cn/#/detail?productId=6713800>

Shanghai

9 | 5 | 2024

THU 7:30PM

Shanghai Oriental Art Center

RMB880 RMB680 RMB480 RMB280 RMB180

<https://www.shoac.com.cn/show/538669457827659776#/detail?projectId=971414432515825664>

Wuhan

11 | 5 | 2024

SAT 7:30PM

Wuhan Qintai Concert Hall

RMB680 RMB480 RMB380 RMB280 RMB180 RMB80

<https://qtconcerthall.polyt.cn/#/detail?productId=6681200>

Changsha

12 | 5 | 2024

SUN 7:30PM

Changsha Concert Hall

RMB680 RMB480 RMB380 RMB280 RMB180

<https://csyzt.polyt.cn/#/detail?productId=6565200>

Harbin

15 | 5 | 2024

WED 7PM

Harbin Concert Hall

RMB680 RMB480 RMB380 RMB180 RMB80

<https://hrbtheatre.polyt.cn/#/detail?productId=6648900>

Shenyang

16 | 5 | 2024

THU 7PM

Shengjing Grand Theatre

RMB880 RMB680 RMB480 RMB280

<https://sysjdjy.polyt.cn/#/detail?productId=6645200>

Beijing

18 | 5 | 2024

SAT 7:30PM

National Centre for the Performing Arts

RMB680 RMB580 RMB500 RMB420 RMB320 RMB240 RMB180

<https://wticket.chncpa.org/product.html?id=10000384#2024-05-18>

[Download](#) press images



Long Yu

Photo: Liu Hui



Paloma So



Jian Wang



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: Long Yu

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. Long Yu 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 20th 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.

The Swire Group has been the Principal Patron of the HK Phil since 2006. Through this current sponsorship donation, which is the largest amount received in the orchestra's history, Swire endeavours to foster access to classical music and stimulate cultural participation in Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland – a critical aspect of this is to engage with the community, especially young people. The sponsorship will also help promote local artistic excellence 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.