

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: 24 Jun 2024

## Harmony in Gold: The HK Phil 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

[Download HK Phil Gala Dinner photos](#)

**[24 June 2024, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) held its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner at Regent Hong Kong on 18 June 2024 (Tuesday), with Mr Chan Kwok-ki, Chief Secretary for Administration, as the Guest of Honour.**

The fundraising gala was chaired by Ms Winnie Chiu, who is also a former member of the HK Phil's Board of Governors. The event was attended by over 400 distinguished guests in the City.

This year, the HK Phil proudly celebrates the Golden Jubilee. As a home-grown and internationally acclaimed orchestra, the HK Phil has taken on the role of cultural ambassador for Hong Kong on the global stage. Whilst embarking on world tours to showcase the orchestra's artistic excellence, the HK Phil also continuously presents a diverse range of performances, bringing international artists to Hong Kong to enrich our city's cultural vibrancy. In addition, the HK Phil's extensive and varied education and outreach programmes bring classical music to an extensive range of audience for the benefit of our community.

Over the past half century, the HK Phil has grown from a small amateur ensemble to one of the leading orchestras of the world. This journey was possible only through the steadfast support and partnership of all the artists, musicians, patrons and audiences, which has supported the HK Phil's work and vision for the past half-century, enabling the orchestra to bring the best of international classical music to our city, and to advance Hong Kong's reputation on the world stage.

The dinner received tremendous support from all sectors and was attended by many distinguished guests in the city. The esteemed guests from government sector included Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR Mr Cui Jianchun, Permanent Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism Mr Joe Wong, Deputy Financial Secretary Mr. Michael Wong, and Commissioner for Tourism Ms Vivian Sum. Distinguished guests who joined the celebrations (in alphabetical order of family name) included Ms Agnes Chan, Ms Karen Chan, Mr Dane Cheng, Ms Michelle Cheng, Tan Sri Dato David Chiu, Mrs Janice Choi, Mr Glenn Fok, Mr and Mrs Kenneth Fok, Dr Victor Fung, Prof David Gwilt, Mr Klaus Heymann, Dr Sabrina Ho, Dr Albert Hung, Ms Sophia Kao, Dr Philip Kwok and Mrs Maxine Kwok, Mr Paul Lam, Ms Colleen Lee, Ms Starry Lee, Dr Edward Leong, Dr Lilian Leong, HK Phil First Associate Concertmaster Mr. Leung Kin Fung, Mr and Mrs YS Liu, Prof Lo Chung Mau, Prof and Mrs Kingman Lo, Mr Lo Man Tuen, Ms Paddy Lui, Mr Anthony Lun, Mr Kim Robinson, Mr Jack So, Mr Philip Sohmen, Ms Winnie Tam, Mr Oscar Tao, HK Phil Concertmaster Mr. Jing Wang, Mrs Cissy Pao-Watari, Mr Shinichiro Watari, Mr Perry Yiu, Ms Winnie Yu, and Mr Rimsky Yuen, and more.

It was an eventful evening commencing with an exhibition which showcased some important milestones of the orchestra, with some posters and house programmes along the ascending way

of years. Then, a pre-dinner performance by HK Phil's Principal Horn Lin Jiang, trumpeter Robert Smith, trombonist Kevin Thompson, and surprised the guests with joy. The banquet started with a welcome address by the HK Phil's Chairman Mr David Cogman, Chief Executive of HKSAR Mr John Lee's video message, and the speech by Ms Winnie Chiu, the Chair of Gala Dinner. During the dinner, guest soprano Jennifer performed Senta's Ballad from Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* with her velvet and charismatic voice. Then, HK Phil Music Director Maestro Jaap van Zweden took a moment to share about his wonderful 12-year with the orchestra and gave a vote of thanks to everyone who contributed to the orchestra's success. After that, there was heated live auction in which the guests were thrilled to participate in bidding. Then, more music was brought to the guests by HK Phil's Concertmaster Jing Wang, Principal Viola Andrew Ling, Principal Cello Richard Bamping and guest pianist Colleen Lee who performed Brahms' Piano Quartet no. 1 in G minor, op. 25: IV. Rondo alla Zingarese: Presto. Lastly, silent auction result was then announced to give a perfect ending of the memorable night.

The HK Phil would like to give its heartfelt thanks to the following members:

Gala Dinner Chair: Ms Winnie Chiu

Gala Dinner Advisors: Ms Bonny Wong, Ms Angela Yau

HK Phil Fundraising Committee Members: Mr Brian Brown, Mr Peter Brien, Ms Cherry Cheung, Mr Edmond Huang, Mrs Christine Ip, Ms Elizabeth Lo, Mr Simon Loong, Ms Sarah Wong

Venue Partner: Regent Hong Kong

PR Partner: Occasions Asia Pacific



3607  
Mr David Cogman,  
Chairman, Board of Governors, The Hong Kong  
Philharmonic Society Limited, delivered a welcome  
speech at the start of the Gala.



3620  
Chief Executive of HKSAR Mr John Lee's  
congratulated the HK Phil for its 50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary through a video message



3720  
Ms Winnie Chiu, the Chair of HK Phil 50th Gala Dinner, delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks.



00512  
HK Phil Music Director Maestro Jaap van Zweden shared his 12-year journey with the HK Phil, and thanked all supporters throughout the years.



0189  
Soprano Jennifer Holloway and pianist Jan-Paul Grijpink performing Senta's Ballad from the Flying Dutchman



0200  
(From the left) Pianist Jan-Paul Grijpink, Soprano Jennifer Holloway



00791  
(From the left) HK Phil Concertmaster Jing Wang, guest pianist Colleen Lee, HK Phil Principal Viola Andrew Ling and HK Phil Principal Cello Richard Bamping performing Brahms' Piano Quartet no. 1 in G minor, Op. 25: IV. Rondo alla Zingarese: Presto



4006  
HK Phil Concertmaster Jing Wang



00753  
HK Phil Principal Cello Richard Bamping



1846  
(From the left) Ms Angela Yau, Dr Leong Chi Hung, Dr Lilian Leong, Mrs YS Liu and Mr YS Liu



1992  
(From the left) HK Phil Second Associate Concertmaster Mr Wang Liang, Mr Oscar Tao, Mr Anthony Lun, Mr Dennis Wu, Ms Vanessa Chan









1900  
(From the left) Mr YS Liu, Mrs YS Liu, Principal Second Violin Ms Zhao Yingna and Second Associate Concertmaster Mr Anders Hui



(From the left) Dr Edward Leong and Dr Lilian Leong



 <p>HARMONY IN GOLD: The HK Phil 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala</p>	<p>9293 Ms Agnes Chan</p>  <p>HARMONY IN GOLD: The HK Phil 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala</p>
<p>9412 (From the left) Ms Guo Jingjing, Mr Kenneth Fok</p>	<p>9444 Ms Starrly Lee</p>
 <p>HARMONY IN GOLD: The HK Phil 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala</p>	 <p>HARMONY IN GOLD: The HK Phil 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala</p>
<p>9521 (From the left) Ms Winnie Chiu, Mr KK Chan, Mr David Cogman</p>	<p>9556 (From the left) Ms Vivian Sum, Mr Joe Wong, Mrs Vennie Ho</p>
 <p>HARMONY IN GOLD: The HK Phil 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala</p>	 <p>HARMONY IN GOLD: The HK Phil 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala</p>
<p>9599 (From the left) Mr David Cogman, Mr Cui Jianchun, Ms Winnie Chiu</p>	<p>9589 (From the left) Mr David Cogman, Ms Winnie Chiu, Mr Cui Jianchun, Tan Sri Dato' David Chiu, Puan Sri Datin Nancy Chiu</p>



9640  
(From the left) Mr Boswell Cheung, Ms Liana Yung, Mr John Lee, Mrs Amy Lo, Dr Lo Chung Mau, Mr Edmond Lau



135  
(From the left) Mrs Vennie Ho, Mr Benedict Fohr, Mr Klaus Haymann, Prof Daniel Chua, Mr Glenn Fok, Mr Edmond Huang, Ms Winnie Tam



156  
(From the Left) Prof Kingman Lo, Mrs Kingman Lo, Mr Benedict Fohr



205  
Ms Akina Fong



9898  
Cake cutting ceremony with Officiating guest, government representatives, Board members, musicians and senior management team  
(From the left) Mrs Vennie Ho, Mr Dennis Wu, Mr Leung Kin-fung, Mr Jing Wang, Ms Winnie Chiu, Mr Jack So, Mr Simon Loong, Mr Edmond Huang, Ms Marina Lee, Prof Daniel Chua, Mr Glenn Fok, Ms Janice Choi, Maestro Jaap van Zweden, Mr David Cogman, Mr KK Chan, Mr Cui Jianchun, Dr Lilian



8776  
Toasting with Officiating guest, government representatives, Board members, musicians and senior management team  
(From the left) Mrs Vennie Ho, Mr Dennis Wu, Mr Leung Kin-fung, Mr Wang Jing, Ms Winnie Chiu, Mr Jack So, Mr Simon Loong, Mr Edmond Huang, Ms Marina Lee, Prof Daniel Chua, Mr Glenn Fok, Mrs Janice Choi, Maestro Jaap van Zweden, Mr David Cogman, Mr KK Chan, Mr Cui Jianchun, Dr Lilian

Leong, Ms Christine Ip, Ms Angela Yau, Ms Winnie Tam, Ms Karen Chan, Mr Peter Brien, Mr Y S Liu, Mr Benedict Fohr, Ms Kary Hon, Ms Vanessa Chan, Mr Timothy Tsukamoto, Mr Homer Lee



0193  
(From the left) Ms Winnie Chiu, Mrs Janice Choi

Leong, Ms Christine Ip, Ms Angela Yau, Ms Winnie Tam, Ms Karen Chan, Mr Peter Brien, Mr Y S Liu, Mr Benedict Fohr, Ms Kary Hon, Ms Vanessa Chan, Mr Timothy Tsukamoto, Mr Homer Lee



0463  
(From the left) Dr TK Cheung, Mr Leung Kin-fung, Ms Karen Chan, Dr Janice Tsang, Dr Sylvia Chan, Ms Cindy Chow



0321  
(From the left) Ms Marine Lee, Mrs Janice Choi, Ms Winnie Tam, Ms Sophia Kao



422  
(From the left) Ms Winnie Chiu, Mrs Amy Lo, Mr Jack So, Dr Lo Chung Mau



4056  
Thank you remarks by HK Phil Chief Executive, Benedikt Fohr

---

For further press information please contact:

**Dennis Wu, Director of Marketing**

Tel: +852 2721 9035 Email: [dennis.wu@hkphil.org](mailto:dennis.wu@hkphil.org)

**Emily Hui, Media Relations & Communications Manager**

Tel: +852 2721 1585 Email: [emily.hui@hkphil.org](mailto:emily.hui@hkphil.org)

Occasions PR & Marketing Ltd.

Kora He

+852 3678 0165

[kora@occasionspr.com](mailto:kora@occasionspr.com)

Suzette Su

+852 3678 0171

[suzette@occasionspr.com](mailto:suzette@occasionspr.com)



## 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 regarded as one of the leading orchestras in Asia. 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. 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. Other recent recording projects include Mahler's Symphony no. 10, Shostakovich's Symphony no. 10, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony no. 6 and Piano Concerto no. 1.

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. The HK Phil celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the 2023/24 season, touring Europe, Asia, and Mainland China, performing in 22 cities across ten countries.

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, Joshua Bell, Ning Feng, Boris Giltburg, Lang Lang, Leonidas Kavakos, Olivier Latry, Yo-Yo Ma 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 conducting their own compositions.

The HK Phil runs diverse education and community programmes in schools 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.

香港管弦協會有限公司 The Hong Kong Philharmonic Society Ltd

香港九龍尖沙咀香港文化中心行政大樓八樓

Level 8, Administration Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong

電話 Tel +852 2721 2030 傳真 Fax +852 2311 6229

[www.hkphil.org](http://www.hkphil.org)