

HK Phil Fundraising Concert 2025 **“Play with the Phil!” Receives Unprecedented Love and Support**

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[20 January 2025, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) hosted two unprecedentedly successful fundraising concerts at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall on 11 & 12 January 2025 (Saturday & Sunday). Over 25 participating groups, totalling 175 talented musicians, shared the stage with the orchestra under the baton of the HK Phil’s Resident Conductor Lio Kuokman.

The two concerts were a remarkable success and attracting a record-breaking number of performers and audience members and raising over HK\$3.2 million to support the orchestra’s long-term development, including music education and outreach endeavours, making the orchestral experience accessible to communities from all walks of life.

This year’s diverse and talent cast of participants include (in alphabetical order): Beilosi Music Studio & Vincy Chan; Joseph Yourong Cai; Canadian International School of Hong Kong; Charis Chan; Kornkanya Charoensiddhi; Harper Cheung; Chinese International School; Lora Chow, Eddie Tam, Alis Yingshi Lin & Henry Ngan; Bora Ding; Benedikt Fohr; Isabelle Fuan; Grazioso Music Academy; Hong Kong Harp Chamber Music; Hong Kong International School Onsom Orchestra; Seven Xiya Jing; Sophie Xia Ku; Dan Lee; Karlie Leung; Malvern College Hong Kong; China Pascual; Tan Ethan Chung Hei & Ding Yijie; Wong Cheuk Yin Brian; Yang Enhua; Yu Soohyun; and Stacey Dongbo Zhang.

Some of the concerts’ highlights were:

- An unprecedentedly wide range of soloists on various instruments such as piano, violin, viola, harp, timpani, harmonica, erhu etc. and singing, featuring performances from young musicians from institutions such as Bellosi Music Studio, Grazioso Music Academy and Hong Kong Harp Chamber Music.
- School orchestral groups playing alongside the HK Phil, made possible through rigorous guidance from HK Phil principals and conductor Lio Kuokman.
- A breath-taking erhu performance by Yang Enhua from the Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong (ADAHK), generously supported by the Swire Group Charitable Trust.
- A creative medley of Chinese opera and Western opera classics arranged by Lora Chow; an orchestral variation of a memoir dedicated to her late father by Dan Lee, and a violin concertino composed by Ethan Tan featuring soloist Ding Yijie who was last year’s fundraising concert participant from ADAHK.
- a viola performance by Chief Executive of the HK Phil Benedikt Fohr, a bold move that brought his passion for music to the stage and reinforced his dedication to the mission and long-term development of the HK Phil.

Conductor Lio Kuokman said “I am proud of the diverse array of instruments and styles represented in this year’s fundraising concerts. It speaks to the richness of our community and the importance of nurturing the next generation of artists.”

The HK Phil would like to express its gratitude to the Fundraising Concert 2025 Organising Committee:

Co-Chairs

Mr Edmond Cheuk
Ms Elizabeth Lo

Honorary Advisor

Ms Angela Yau

Members

Ms Lora Chow
Mrs Jacqueline Pun Leung

Artist

Lio Kuokman, JP conductor [[full biography](#)]

Currently Resident Conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil), Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Macao Orchestra, Programme Director of the Macao International Music Festival, Chief Conductor of the RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Partner of the Kansai Philharmonic Orchestra, Lio is praised by the Philadelphia Inquirer as “a startling conducting talent”. He was the second prize winner of the third Svetlanov International Conducting Competition in Paris with Audience Prize and Orchestra Prize, and he has served as the first Chinese Assistant Conductor with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Programme (in performance order)

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra	AARON COPLAND <i>Fanfare for the Common Man</i>
Stacey Dongbo Zhang	ANTONIO VIVALDI <i>The Four Seasons – Violin Concerto in E major, RV 269, Spring: movement I</i>
Grazioso Music Academy	JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH Double Violin Concerto in D minor, BWV 1043: movement I
Harper Cheung	JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH Violin Concerto in A minor, BWV 1041: movement I
Benedikt Fohr	GEORG PHILIPP TELEMANN Viola Concerto in G major, TWV 51:G9: movements III & IV
Yu Soohyun	VITTORIO MONTI Czardas
Seven Xiya Jing	ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER (arr. PONG LAW) <i>The Phantom of the Opera: “Think of Me”</i>
Yang Enhua	LIU WENJIN Erhu Concerto, <i>The Great Wall Capriccio: Beacon-Fire Drill</i>
Lora Chow, Eddie Tam, Alis Yingshi Lin & Henry Ngan	LORA CHOW <i>Sleepless Moon Medley</i>
Dan Lee	DAN LEE <i>The Sunken Memory – Orchestral Variation (World Premiere)</i>
Harper Cheung	JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH Piano Concerto in F minor, BWV 1056: movement I

Joseph Yourong Cai	FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN (arr. DIRK SCHNEIDERHEINZE): Rondo in C minor
Kornkanya Charoensiddhi	CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS Piano Concerto no. 2 in G Minor, Op. 22: movement I
Chinese International School	FELIX MENDELSSOHN <i>The Hebrides</i>
Charis Chan	NEY ROSAURO Timpani Concerto, op. 37: <i>Bachroque</i>
Hong Kong International School Onsom Orchestra	PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY (arr. RICHARD MEYER) Themes from <i>Capriccio italien</i> LEROY ANDERSON (arr. DOUGLAS E. WAGNER) Irish Suite: <i>The Irish Washerwoman</i>
Bora Ding	WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART Piano Concerto no. 20 in D minor, K. 466: movement III
Isabelle Fuan	FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN (arr. GERARD SALONGA) Nocturne in E flat major, op. 9, no. 2
Malvern College Hong Kong	WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART Piano Concerto no. 21 in C major, K. 467: movement III
Hong Kong Harp Chamber Music	ANTONIO VIVALDI Concerto for 2 Mandolins in G major, RV 532: movement II
China Pascual	CARL DITTERS VON DITTERSDORF Harp Concerto in A major: movement III
Sophie Xia Ku	WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART Violin Concerto no. 3 in G major, K. 216: movement I
Karlie Leung	ANTONIO VIVALDI <i>The Four Seasons</i> – Violin Concerto in G minor, RV 315, <i>Summer</i> : movement III
Tan Ethan Chung Hei & Ding Yijie	ETHAN TAN Violin Concertino in D minor
Wong Cheuk Yin Brian	JAMES MOODY <i>Toledo</i>
Canadian International School of Hong Kong	HOWARD SHORE (arr. JOHN WHITNEY) Symphony Suite from <i>The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring</i> (excerpts)
Beilosi Music Studio & Vincy Chan	JOSEPH KOO (arr. ALEX TAM) <i>Beneath the Lion Rock</i>

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director Designate: Tarmo Peltokoski

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. 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.

Tarmo Peltokoski will become the HK Phil's Music Director beginning in the 2026/27 season, after serving as Music Director Designate in 2025/26. Currently, Long Yu serves as Principal Guest Conductor, Lio Kuokman is Resident Conductor, and Daniele Gatti is Artistic Partner.

The HK Phil has flourished in the last two decades under Jaap van Zweden (Music Director, 2012–2024) and Edo de Waart (Artistic Director and Chief Conductor, 2004–2012). 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 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The HK Phil celebrated its 50th 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, Vasily Petrenko, Krzysztof Urbanski, Joshua Bell, Ning Feng, Boris Gilburg, 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, each 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, the largest 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 engaging 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.

The history of the HK Phil dates back to the establishment of the Sino-British Orchestra in 1947. In 1957, the orchestra was officially registered as the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra 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.