

***For Immediate Release***

28 May 2012

Hong Kong

**Piano Superstar Jean-Yves Thibaudet and Conductor Jun Märkl in  
All-French Program including Ravel's *Boléro***

**“Great Performers: L’Exotique” (8 & 9 June)**

**Opening Performance is sponsored by  
Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch (Asia) Limited**

Hailed as “one of the best pianists in the world”, French piano dynamo [Jean-Yves Thibaudet](#) returns to the Hong Kong Philharmonic stage to perform Saint Saën’s colourful *Egyptian* Piano Concerto. He and the Orchestra will come under the baton of conductor [Jun Märkl](#) who will lead a most delightful all-French programme including Ravel’s ever popular *Boléro*.

The rest of the programme includes Debussy’s *Khamma* (orch. Koechin) and Ravel’s two other masterworks, *Alborada del Gracioso* and *Rhapsodie Espagnole*. Free pre-concert talks will be given on both nights at 7:15pm, also at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. For details, please visit [www.hkpo.com](http://www.hkpo.com)

**“Great Performers: L’Exotique”** will be held in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall** on **8 and 9 June (Fri and Sat), 8pm**. Then opening performance is sponsored by Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch (Asia) Limited

Tickets, priced at \$380, \$280, \$200, \$140, are available at [URBTIX](http://URBTIX). Programme enquiries: 2721 2030.

**Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano**

**“A flawless combination of musical grace and pianistic sheen”**

**--- Gramophone**

Hailed as "one of the best pianists in the world," Jean-Yves Thibaudet continues to captivate audiences around the world with his thrilling performances, profound artistry, poetic musicality and dazzling technical prowess. Thibaudet is sought after by today's foremost orchestras, festivals, conductors and collaborative musicians for his enlightened interpretations and charisma. On June 18, 2010, the Hollywood Bowl honored Thibaudet for his musical achievement by inducting him into the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame.

Thibaudet begins his 2011-2012 schedule with a European tour with Charles Dutoit and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Much of the 2011-2012 season is centered on Liszt, Ravel, and Saint-Saëns, and he performs the concertos of Ravel and Liszt with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and with the San Diego Symphony at its season-opening gala in October. Jean-Yves Thibaudet has released over 40 albums with Decca, which have earned the Schallplattenpreis, the Diapason d'Or, Choc du Monde de la Musique, a Gramophone Award, two Echo awards, and the Edison Prize.

Known for his style and elegance on and off the traditional concert stage, Thibaudet has had an impact on the world of fashion, film, and philanthropy. His concert wardrobe is by celebrated London designer Vivienne Westwood. He had an onscreen cameo in the Bruce Beresford feature film on Alma Mahler entitled *Bride of the Wind*, and his playing is showcased throughout the movie soundtrack. Thibaudet was the soloist on the Oscar- and Golden Globe-award winning soundtrack to Universal Pictures' *Atonement* and the Oscar-nominated *Pride and Prejudice*. He was also featured in the 2000 PBS/Smithsonian special *Piano Grand!*, a piano performance program hosted by Billy Joel to pay tribute to the 300th anniversary of the piano.

## **Jun Märkl, conductor**

**“With a rare instinct for colour and texture”**

**--- Classic FM Magazine**

Jun Märkl is Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the MDR Leipzig Radio Symphony, and 10/11 marks his sixth and final season as Music Director of the Orchestre National de Lyon.

Märkl has conducted many European and American leading orchestras, including the Munich Philharmonic, Radio Sinfonie Orchester Berlin, Orchestre de Paris, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Helsinki Philharmonic, Danish Radio, City of Birmingham Symphony, Royal Scottish National, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Rotterdam and Netherlands Philharmonic, Dutch Radio Philharmonic, and the Zurich Tonhalle Orchester, as well as the symphonies of Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Minnesota, St. Louis, Washington NSO, Baltimore, Atlanta, Dallas, Seattle, Montreal and Toronto. This season will see his debut with the Cleveland Orchestra.

Born in Munich, his (German) father was a distinguished Concertmaster and his (Japanese) mother a solo pianist. Märkl studied violin, piano and conducting at the Musikhochschule in Hannover, going on to study with Sergiu Celibidache in Munich and with Gustav Meier in Michigan. In 1986 he won the conducting competition of the Deutsche Musikrat and a year later won a scholarship from the Boston Symphony Orchestra to study at Tanglewood with Leonard Bernstein and Seiji Ozawa.

## **Programme**

Ravel's most famous composition, *Boléro* was premièred in 1928 and became an instant and sensational success. "A piece for orchestra without music", its insistent side-drum rhythm stands as the most instantly recognizable musical pattern since Beethoven's Fifth.

Beyond Ravel's sounds of Spain, half-German/half-Japanese conductor, Jun Märkl, leads the HKPO into even more exotic places in the company of three more Frenchmen.

First, a rare chance to hear Debussy's retelling of an ancient Egyptian legend about a girl who sacrificed herself through dancing, then, in partnership with Jean-Yves Thibaudet – hailed as "one of the best pianists in the world" – he retraces Saint-Saëns journey down the Nile in the colourful *Egyptian Piano Concerto*, complete with its distant echoes of Indo-China.

## Great Performers: L'Éxotique

8&9 | 6 | 2012

FRI & SAT 8PM

HK Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$380 \$280 \$200 \$140

Available at URBTIX now

Opening performance is sponsored by Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch (Asia) Limited

### Artists

[Jun Märkl](#) conductor

[Jean-Yves Thibaudet](#) piano

Click the thumbnails to download press images [Or hold Ctrl then click to open the file]



### Programme

**DEBUSSY** *Khamma* (orch. Koechlin)

**SAINT-SAENS** Piano Concerto No.5 *Egyptian*

**RAVEL** *Alborada del Gracioso*

**RAVEL** *Rhapsodie Espagnole*

**RAVEL** *Boléro*

## Ticketing Information

Credit Card Booking

**(852) 2111 5999**

Online Booking

[www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)

For programme enquiry, please call HKPO at

**(852) 2721 2030**

Or go on our website:

[www.hkpo.com](http://www.hkpo.com)

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## Media Contact

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## Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HKPO) is one of Asia's leading orchestras. Enriching Hong Kong's cultural life for over a century, the Orchestra has grown into a formidable ensemble of Chinese and international talents, attracting world-class artists to collaborate on its stage. The HKPO annually touches the lives of over 200,000 music lovers through more than 150 performances. Under the leadership of Artistic Director and Chief Conductor Edo de Waart, the HKPO has scaled new heights of musical excellence, and will continue to do so under the artistic leadership of Jaap van Zweden, the Orchestra's Music Director from the 2012/13 season.

The HKPO stays in tune with our city by presenting the Orchestra in unexpected venues and bringing the excitement of the concert experience to every home through radio and television broadcasts including the largest symphonic event of the year, Swire Symphony under the Stars, at Happy Valley. The Orchestra runs a comprehensive schools education programme, HSBC Insurance Creative Notes, bringing the joy of classical music to primary, secondary and special school kids. The Orchestra also collaborates regularly with other performing arts organisations such as Opera Hong Kong in addition to its crossover series with Western and Chinese pop artists.

The Orchestra also builds its reputation and raises its artistic standards by touring. In September 2010, de Waart and the HKPO returned to China, performing at the Expo 2010 Shanghai, Xi'an and Beijing to critical acclaim.

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is a Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre