

PRESS RELEASE

Internationally Acclaimed Pianist Melvyn Tan Joins Conductor Lawrence Renes in Mozart's Piano Concerto No.22 Experience the Power of Music Live in Shostakovich's Remarkable *Leningrad* Symphony (19&20 October)

[16 August 2012, Hong Kong] Known for his passion for the fortepiano and widely recognized as one of the experts in the Classical and pre-Romantic repertory, pianist [Melvyn Tan](#) will return to the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HKPO)** stage on **19 & 20 October 2012 (Fri & Sat)**, to perform Mozart's poignant Piano Concerto No.22. Tan, whose scholarly and expert performances of Mozart have made him acclaimed around the world, will be joined by conductor [Lawrence Renes](#), who will be also leading the Orchestra in Shostakovich's powerful *Leningrad* Symphony.

Composed as bombs and artillery rained down, and the city's tragic siege tightened, the *Leningrad* symphony was a rallying call to the world at the darkest hour of 1942. The Symphony and Shostakovich became powerful music is more powerful than war.

Masterworks: "Leningrad Symphony" will be held at **8pm**, on **19 & 20 October 2012 (Fri & Sat)** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets, priced at \$320 \$240 \$180 \$120 is available at URBTIX now. Free pre-concert talks will be given both nights at 7:15pm, also at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. For enquiries, please contact us at 2721 2030 or visit www.hkpo.com

Melvyn Tan, piano [\[full biography\]](#)

"Tan is, of course, among the most thoughtful, elegant and refined of pianists. (...) Tan played it all with faultless grace, and the audience adored every second of it. An outstanding recital and a festival highlight so far."

--- The Guardian

Born in Singapore in 1956, Melvyn Tan has built a formidable international reputation as a versatile keyboard player. He travelled to the origins of his instrument to rediscover it, and in doing so he earned worldwide acclaim as a leading exponent of the fortepiano and the broader 'early music movement'. His collaboration with Sir Roger Norrington produced a number of landmark recordings and performances, including the Beethoven and Mozart piano concertos for EMI, and a European tour with the London Classical Players on Beethoven's very own 1817 'Broadwood' piano.

Today, Melvyn Tan performs on both the fortepiano and modern piano. Passionate about the French repertoire and an expert in the Classical and pre-Romantic periods, he has won critical acclaim for his complete cycles of the Beethoven concertos and sonatas, Mozart sonatas, Debussy préludes and Chopin préludes. A well-travelled musician, his visits have frequently brought him to world class venues including London's Wigmore Hall and Royal Festival Hall, New York's Lincoln Centre, Vienna's Konzerthaus and Musikverein, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and festivals such as Salzburg, Edinburgh and Spitalfields.

Lawrence Renes, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

In recent years, Lawrence Renes has conducted many of Europe's most prestigious orchestras, including Staatskapelle Dresden, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Deutsches Sinfonie-Orchester Berlin, BBC Symphony and the Gothenburg and Danish National Symphony orchestras. 2011/12 season marked his début with San Francisco Opera, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, as well as his returns to several orchestras with whom he has a regular relationship, including the Oslo, Bergen, Hong Kong and Royal Swedish Philharmonic orchestras.

In the United States, he has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Seattle, Houston, Detroit, and St Louis Symphony orchestras, and at the Aspen Music Festival. Further afield he has worked with the New Zealand, Melbourne, and West Australian Symphony orchestras.

Renes was the assistant to Edo de Waart at the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic from 1994-1996. During the period 2001 to 2006 he held the post of Generalmusikdirektor of Bremer

Theater and the Bremer Philharmoniker. From 1998 to 2003 Renes was Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of Het Gelders Orkest, Arnhem. A recent highlight of his collaboration with the Royal Swedish Philharmonic was the Nobel Peace Prize Gala Concert with Renée Fleming.

Masterworks: Leningrad Symphony

19&20 | 10 | 2012

FRI & SAT 8PM

HK Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$320 \$240 \$180 \$120

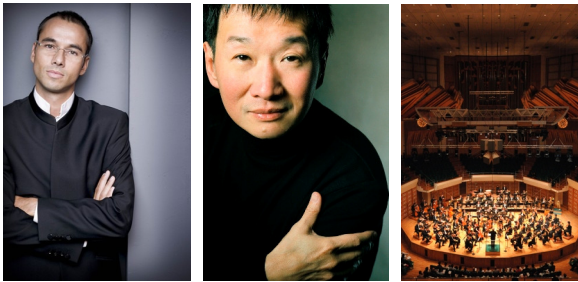
Available at URBTIX from 15 August

Artists

[Lawrence Renes](#) conductor

[Melvyn Tan](#) piano

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



Programme

MOZART Piano Concerto No.22 in E flat, K482

SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No.7 *Leningrad*

Ticketing Information

Credit Card Booking

(852) 2111 5999

Online Booking

www.urbtix.hk

For programme enquiry, please call HKPO at

(852) 2721 2030

Or go on our website:

www.hkpo.com

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

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. From the 2012/13 season, Jaap van Zweden has become Music Director of the HKPO. Under his leadership, the HKPO will continue to develop its reputation for artistic excellence.

From April 2006, The Swire Group Charitable Trust became the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra's Principal Patron. Swire's sponsorship of the HKPO, the largest in the ensemble's history, supports artistic growth and development as the Orchestra takes its place on the world stage, and brings performances of musical excellence to the widest possible public.

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, 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, 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