

PRESS RELEASE

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DATE: 10 OCTOBER 2012

Anne-Sophie Mutter Makes Her Much-Anticipated Début with the Hong Kong Philharmonic on 16&17 Nov in Mendelssohn and Currier

Sponsored by Mercedes-Benz

Change of Programme: Mutter will perform Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, replacing the previously advertised Concerto by Dvořák

[10 October 2012, Hong Kong] Hailed by *The Times* as “the undisputed queen of violin-playing”, the legendary violinist [Anne-Sophie Mutter](#) will make her much-awaited HK Phil début on **16&17 November**.

In this programme she plays not one but two full-length works – a feast for lovers of her incredible technique and musicianship. American composer Sebastian Currier wrote *Time Machines* especially for Mutter – an exploration of music's ethereal nature, literally “sound in time”. To balance the radiance of this challenging work, Ms Mutter picked the romantic Violin Concerto by Mendelssohn* as a conclusion of the concert. Under the baton of British conductor [Michael Francis](#), the HK Phil will also perform Janáček's stirring fantasy *Taras Bulba* broods on themes of heroic death and battle.

Sponsored by Mercedes-Benz, **Masterworks: “Anne-Sophie Mutter”** will be held on **16&17 November (Fri & Sat), 8pm**, in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**.

Tickets, priced at \$980, \$680, \$480, \$320, are available at URBTIX. Free pre-concert talks will be given both nights at 7:15pm, also at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. For enquiry, please contact us at 2721 2030.

**Ms. Mutter has postponed her performances of the Dvořák Concerto to a future season and expresses her thanks for the programme change which allows the Mendelssohn concerto, a well-known and well-loved work, to provide for a more romantic evening paired with the demanding Currier work. She feels*

the Mendelssohn is an ideal work with which to close the evening's programme.

Anne-Sophie Mutter, violin [\[full biography\]](#)

“Mutter is the undisputed queen of violin-playing...”

The Times

For 35 years violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter has maintained a career of exceptional musicianship with an unwavering commitment to the future of classical music. Since her international début in 1976 at the age of 13, followed by a solo appearance with Herbert von Karajan, Mutter has appeared in all the major concert halls of the world. Cited by The Chicago Tribune for doing more than “any living violinist to enrich the late 20th century violin repertory”, Mutter has had new works composed for her by Sebastian Currier, Witold Lutosławski, Krzysztof Penderecki, Sir André Previn and Wolfgang Rihm. She also devotes her time to numerous charity projects and supports the development of young, exceptionally talented musicians.

In 2011, at her 35th stage anniversary, she toured with “Mutter’s Virtuosi”, a new ensemble under her musical direction. It consists of 14 current and former scholarship holders of the Anne-Sophie Mutter Foundation from 11 European cities. Mutter’s Virtuosi will tour Asia in 2013.

The honours afforded Mutter for her many recordings include the German Record Prize, the Grand Prix du Disque, the International Record Prize and several Grammys.

For Mozart’s 250th birthday, Mutter recorded all his major compositions for violin. She also marked the bicentenary of Mendelssohn’s birth with an album of his symphonic and chamber music. For her 35th stage anniversary, a comprehensive box set with all of her DG recordings was released. Concurrently, the live recording of the New York première of Wolfgang Rihm’s *Lichtes Spiel* and Sebastian Currier’s *Time Machines* (its world première given by Mutter in 2011 with the New York Philharmonic) will be released.

In 2010 Anne-Sophie Mutter was awarded the Doctor Honoris Causa from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim. She is a bearer of the Grand Order of Merit of the German Federal Republic, the French Order of the Legion of Honour, the Bavarian Order of Merit, the Great Austrian Order

of Merit, and many other awards. She was also awarded Musical America's 2011 Musician of the Year Award.

Michael Francis, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

The rising young British conductor, Michael Francis, is receiving engagements and accolades around the world. Following a 2010 début concert with the San Francisco Symphony, Francis was immediately given a two year invitation to conduct the ten classical concerts of the orchestra's annual summer concert series.

He came to prominence in 2007 when he was asked, with 12 hours' notice, to replace Valery Gergiev for a performance with the London Symphony Orchestra. Only one month later he was asked, this time with only two hours notice, to replace the composer/conductor John Adams in a performance of his own works with the LSO. The LSO has since continued regularly to invite him to conduct rehearsals as an assistant to Valery Gergiev, a diverse range of concerts as well as in the recording studio. In 2009 he replaced André Previn in four concerts with Anne-Sophie Mutter and Radio-Sinfonieorchester Stuttgart. All four concerts received great critical praise.

In 2010, Michael Francis appeared with the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra in Sweden. As a result of his success in Sweden, he was recently appointed Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra for a three year term to begin in the 2012/13 season.

In the 2010/11 season he also held successful débuts with the New York Philharmonic (with Anne-Sophie Mutter), Seattle Symphony and Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, and worked with Anne-Sophie Mutter in Japan and Taiwan with the National Taipei Symphony Orchestra and the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra. Earlier this year he joined forces with Mutter once again for a European tour, performing Sebastian Currier's Violin Concerto with the RSO Stuttgart. In addition he will return to Taiwan and Japan (Japan Philharmonic) with Mutter. This year Michael Francis made his début with the Cincinnati Symphony as well as with Vancouver and Toronto symphonies, and will return to both Oregon and Seattle symphonies.

Masterworks: Anne-Sophie Mutter

16&17 | 11 | 2012

FRI & SAT 8PM

HK Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$980 \$680 \$480 \$320

Available at URBTIX from now

Sponsored by Mercedes-Benz

Artists

[Michael Francis](#) conductor

[Anne-Sophie Mutter](#) violin

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



Programme

JANÁČEK *Taras Bulba*

SEBASTIAN CURRIER *Time Machines* for violin and orchestra

MENDELSSOHN Violin Concerto

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Hong Kong Philharmonic

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

The Hong Kong Philharmonic (HK Phil) is one of Asia's leading orchestras. Enriching Hong Kong's cultural life for over a century, the HK Phil has grown into a formidable ensemble of Chinese and international talents, attracting world-class artists to collaborate on its stage. From the 2012/13 season, Jaap van Zweden has become Music Director of the orchestra. Under his leadership, the HK Phil will continue to develop its reputation for artistic excellence.

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

The HK Phil annually touches the lives of over 200,000 music lovers through more than 150 performances including its extensive education activities for children and adults alike, and free concerts such as the popular Swire Symphony under the Stars, and regular broadcasts and telecasts, bringing the joy of classical music to the Hong Kong community. Outside of Hong Kong, the HK Phil has made a number of critically acclaimed tours in Asia and Europe.

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

SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic

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