

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 29 OCTOBER 2012

Two Supreme Dutch Artists Collaborate for the First Time on the HK Phil Stage (7 & 8 December): Jaap van Zweden Conducts Two Mendelssohn Masterpieces, and Elgar's Song Cycle with Renowned Mezzo-Soprano Christianne Stotijn

[29 October 2012, Hong Kong] For the third programme in his inaugural season, Maestro [Jaap van Zweden](#) has chosen two major works by Mendelssohn, whose music holds a special place in the conductor's heart and repertoire.

Mendelssohn made his first visit to the UK in 1829, and after successful performances in London he visited Scotland. Inspired by the spectacular Scottish scenery he composed two masterpieces. The first was *The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave)*, which depicts a stormy voyage to a remote cave off the Hebrides islands, while the second was the *Scottish Symphony*, a work brims with the energy of folk dance, song and highland colour. On **7&8 December**, the **Hong Kong Philharmonic (HK Phil)** will be performing both of these great works under van Zweden's baton.

Between these two works, the brilliant mezzo-soprano [Christianne Stotijn](#), a fellow Dutch singer who has collaborated with Maestro van Zweden on numerous occasions, performs Elgar's *Sea Pictures*. A song cycle of five poems by various poets, it is full of sun-kissed, brooding and stormy music, evoking contrasting images of the sea.

Jaap Essentials: "Jaap's Mendelssohn" will be held on **7&8 December 2012 (Fri & Sat), 8pm**, in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets priced: HK\$400 \$300 \$220 \$140 are now available at [URBTIX](#). Free pre-concert talks will be given on both nights at 7:15pm, also at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. For enquiries, please visit www.hkphil.org or contact 2721 2030.

Jaap van Zweden, conductor [[full biography](#)]

Amsterdam-born Jaap van Zweden is one of today's most sought-after conductors. Named *Musical America's* Conductor of the Year for 2012, he has been Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic since 2012/13 season. His sold-out inaugural concerts with the orchestra in September 2012 have received great critical acclaim.

Maestro van Zweden is currently Music Director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Honorary Chief Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and Honorary Conductor of the Radio Chamber Philharmonic. Appointed at age nineteen as the youngest Concertmaster ever of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, he began his conducting career in 1995, successively holding the positions of Chief Conductor at the Netherlands Symphony Orchestra (1996-2000), Chief Conductor of the Residentie Orchestra of The Hague (2000-2005) and Chief Conductor of the Royal Flemish Philharmonic Orchestra (2008-2011).

Prestigious orchestras he works with regularly include the Chicago Symphony, the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras, the Munich Philharmonic, Oslo Philharmonic, WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne, Orchestre National de France, and the London Philharmonic. Maestro van Zweden has conducted at major international festivals including the BBC Proms, and the Tanglewood and Aspen Festivals. His recent subscription débuts with the New York Philharmonic and the Boston Symphony have garnered overwhelming critical acclaim.

Christianne Stotijn, mezzo-soprano [\[full biography\]](#)

Christianne Stotijn studied in Metz, London and Amsterdam, where her teachers included Udo Reinemann, Jard van Nes and Dame Janet Baker. Her awards include 2005/06 ECHO Rising Stars, Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award 2005, Dutch Music Prize 2008 and BBC New Generation Artist 2007.

Bernard Haitink has had a profound influence on Christianne's career. After performances of Mahler's *Rückert-Lieder*, Haitink invited her to perform at the BBC Proms, the Lucerne Festival and with the Chicago, Boston and London symphony orchestras. Other conductors with whom Christianne has worked include Claudio Abbado, Iván Fischer and Gustavo Dudamel.

Christianne Stotijn's recordings are on the Onyx Classics label. Her discography to date includes Schubert,

Berg and Wolf accompanied by Joseph Breinl, Mahler's songs accompanied by Julius Drake, Tchaikovsky's songs accompanied by Julius Drake which won the BBC Music Magazine's Vocal Recording of 2010, and her latest Onyx recording, Stimme der Sehnsucht - lieder by Pfitzner, Strauss and Mahler, accompanied by Joseph Breinl. For the MDG label Christianne Stotijn recorded a work close to her heart - Frank Martin's The Lay of the Love and Death of Cornet Christoph Rilke, which was awarded the ECHO Klassik Award in 2008.

Jaap Essentials: Jaap's Mendelssohn

7&8 | 12 | 2012

FRI & SAT 8PM

HK Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$400 \$300 \$220 \$140

Available at URBTIX from now

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#) conductor

[Christianne Stotijn](#) mezzo-soprano

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



Programme

MENDELSSOHN *The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave)*

ELGAR *Sea Pictures*

MENDELSSOHN *Symphony No.3 Scottish*

Ticketing Information

Credit Card Booking

(852) 2111 5999

Online Booking

www.urbtix.hk

For programme enquiry, please call HK Phil at

(852) 2721 2030

Or go on our website:

www.hkphil.org

--- END ---

For further press information please contact:

Paul Tam, Director of Marketing

Tel: +852 2721 9035 Cell: +852 9650 6818 Email: paul.tam@hkphil.org

Alice Luk, Assistant Corporate Communications Manager



梵志登 Jaap van Zweden
音樂總監 Music Director

Tel: +852 2721 1585

Cell: +852 6280 0156

Email: alice.luk@hkphil.org

Hong Kong Philharmonic

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

The Hong Kong Philharmonic is a vital part of Hong Kong's cultural life, as the city's largest and busiest musical organisation. In 2013/14 the HK Phil will celebrate its 40th professional season, but its roots are well over a century old. The HK Phil has now evolved to become an orchestral powerhouse in the region, and an acclaimed cultural centrepiece of Asia's World City.

The HK Phil is formed on the belief that a great city deserves a great orchestra. Annually it presents over 150 concerts for 200,000 music lovers. Featuring an enviable roster of international and local artists, with many concerts presented free, among them the annual *Swire Symphony Under The Stars*. Through its acclaimed education programme, over 40,000 young people learned about orchestral music last year.

The HK Phil's members come from every corner of the globe, joining its strong core of Hong Kong musicians. In September 2012, Jaap van Zweden became the orchestra's Music Director. Future years will see an ambitious series of new projects, with major international tours, renewed local partnerships, and large-scale concert events. The HK Phil has recently commenced a multi-CD recording project for Naxos, featuring works by Chinese composers.

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