

PRESS RELEASE
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Hong Kong Philharmonic Announces its 40th Professional Season (2013/14 Season)

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- **Maestro Jaap van Zweden's** second season as Music Director sees him conducting **seven** varied programmes including works by **Mahler, Shostakovich, Bach, Berlioz, Beethoven** and **Dvořák**
- Maestro van Zweden leads the HK Phil in its ever complete performance of the ***St Matthew Passion***
- There are two special programmes to celebrate Hong Kong Philharmonic's **40th Anniversary** - the **HK Phil 40th Heritage Concert** and **HK Phil 40th Anniversary Gala – Symphonie Fantastique**
- **New this season:**
 - **Lorin Maazel Fest** to celebrate **Wagner's** bicentenary and **Britten's** centenary
 - **Schumann Fest** featuring five events, to include all four symphonies and the two main concertos by Schumann
- Internationally acclaimed artists include **Vladimir Ashkenazy, Nicholas McGegan, Emanuel Ax, Lang Lang, Sumi Jo, Matthias Goerne, Sol Gabetta, and Ning Feng**
- Return of popular **Swire Denim** and **Swire Sunday Family** series
- Three-year **Composer in Residence Programme**, and the **Commissioning of New Works**, sponsored by **The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation** inaugurated with **Fung Lam** whose work will be premiered in **June 2014**
- **Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus** performs major works including **Britten's *War Requiem*, Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé*** and **Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream***
- Second **CD recording project** features works composed and conducted by **Bright Sheng**
- **Swire Symphony Under The Stars** will be held on **29 November 2013** at the **New Central Harbourfront**

[7 May 2013, Hong Kong] Hong Kong Philharmonic (HK Phil) today announces the **2013/14 Season**. In 1974 the HK Phil became the first professional orchestra in Hong Kong. It has been bringing beautiful music to the city ever since. In the 40th professional season, the HK Phil will present **64** main stage concerts of orchestral, instrumental and choral music featuring an impressive roll-call of over **50** guest artists and groups.

Maestro Jaap van Zweden with the HK Phil

In his second season at the helm, Music Director **Jaap van Zweden** will lead the HK Phil in **14** compelling concerts in **7** weeks. To open this remarkable season, he will be joined by world renowned pianist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** in Beethoven's *Emperor* Concerto. Other outstanding artists include pianist **Boris Berezovsky**, baritone **Matthias Goerne**, violinist **Ning Feng** and ensembles including the **Bach Choir** from London, **The Hong Kong Children's Choir** and the **Jussen Brothers** from The Netherlands.

New this Season

Lorin Maazel Fest

2014 marks not only the anniversary of the HK Phil, but also of two great musical titans – it is the bicentenary of Wagner’s birth and the centenary of Britten’s birth. The HK Phil is honoured to invite one of the world’s greatest conductors, **Maestro Lorin Maazel**, to conduct concerts which highlight two magnificent masterpieces – **Wagner’s *The Ring Without Words*** (an arrangement of Wagner’s epic music by Maestro Maazel) and **Britten’s *War Requiem***. A special educational project will see the Maestro working with young instrumentalists from Hong Kong side-by-side with the HK Phil.

Maestro Maazel conducts HK Phil thanks to a generous donation from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust

Schumann Fest

Schumann stands at the very heart of Romantic music. Into his symphonies he poured his most personal and heartfelt emotions. In a two-week **Schumann Fest**, the HK Phil will explore this great genius in five events, performing all four of his symphonies, two concertos, selected chamber music, a lieder recital and a dialogue evening. To commence the festival, conductor **Hans Graf** will be joined by cellist **Li-Wei Qin** in Schumann’s refreshing Cello Concerto sandwiched between the First and Second symphonies. Young piano virtuoso **Zhang Haochen** will showcase his artistry in Schumann’s Piano Concerto and conductor **Johannes Wildner** will return with the composer’s Third and Fourth symphonies. Zhang will partner the HK Phil’s principal players in a **Chamber Music Concert** introducing Schumann’s more intimate music. To round off the Fest, the **Lieder Recital** will bring an exquisite selection of Schumann’s greatest songs. To find out more about this most enigmatic of Romantic composers, the HK Phil will present, with the generous support of the Goethe-Institut, Hong Kong, a discussion evening featuring Maestro Hans Graf in conversation with other notable Schumann authorities.

Dialogue Evening is supported by Goethe-Institut, Hong Kong

City Hall Series

Nearly 40 years to the day after its first concert as a professional orchestra, the HK Phil will join forces with its former Music Director **Maestro David Atherton** and pianist **Chen Sa** to celebrate the very first programme of 11 Jan 1974 in its original home, Hong Kong City Hall. Another two concerts not to be missed are **Jaap’s Gran Partita** and **The Young Mozart** featuring HK Phil’s new Concertmaster **Jing Wang** and Principal Viola **Andrew Ling**.

Roll-call of International Artists

World renowned soloists joining the HK Phil’s 40th Season include Grammy Award-winning pianist **Emanuel Ax**, **Lang Lang**, **Jean-Yves Thibaudet**, **Boris Berezovsky**, vocalists **Sumi Jo** and **Matthias Goerne**, cellist **Sol Gabetta**, and violinists **Ning Feng** and **Patricia Kopatchinskaja**.

Distinguished guest conductors include **Vladimir Ashkenazy**, **Hans Graf**, **Nicholas McGegan**, **Carlo Rizzi**, **Jun Märkl** and **Yu Long**.

Must-See Rising Stars

2013/14 Season will also see a number of emerging young talents lighting up the Hong Kong stage. These include pianists **Zhang Haochen**, the **Jussen Brothers** and Hong Kong’s new young star **Johnson Li**. More than that, this season’s **Swire Maestro** series introduces two of America’s most promising and

talented young conductors, **Andrew Grams** and **Case Scaglione**.

Swire Denim and Swire Sunday Family

An innovation from the last season, the **Swire Denim** and **Swire Sunday Family** series have quickly become one of the most popular musical activities in the city. The **Swire Denim Series** will feature three programmes starting at 9pm – “**Gershwin Live!**” with Gershwin himself playing ‘live’ with the orchestra, “**Charlie Chaplin – City Lights**” to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the birth of this great cinematic icon, and “**The Eight Seasons**” combining the evocative “Four Seasons” of both Vivaldi and Piazzolla. **Swire Sunday Family** concerts have fast become a highlight of the weekend for Hong Kong’s children, with fun activities in the Cultural Centre before and after each show, plus a chance to meet the musicians and get up close to the music.

Holiday, Pops & More

The HK Phil’s acclaimed and popular **Holiday, Pops & More** series presents four happy, fun-filled concerts for all music lovers. To celebrate National Day, renowned Chinese Maestro **Zhang Guoyong** will lead the HK Phil in a programme of evergreen classics from the great Chinese folk tradition. Cellist **Trey Lee** will take up the stage for Dvořák’s soulful Cello Concerto.

Sunwah and Wing Lung Bank are sponsors for the opening and 28 September performances respectively

“**Christmas Around the World**” takes the audience on a journey to discover how Christmas is celebrated in different countries. A full-length concert including popular Christmas carols will be the perfect gift for the family to share in the seasonal spirit.

Title Sponsor: Great Eagle Holdings Limited

Maestro Johannes Wildner joins the HK Phil direct from his native Vienna to bid farewell to 2013 and welcome in the New Year in true Viennese style in **The Macallan Bravo Series: “New Year’s Eve – Viennese Treats”**.

Title Sponsor: The Macallan

Bugs Bunny and his friends are coming to Hong Kong in **Warner Bros. presents: “Bugs Bunny at the Symphony II”** – a hilarious collection of **Looney Tunes** projected on the big screen with their original musical scores played live by the orchestra.

Major Projects

Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus

After its highly acclaimed début in Handel’s *Messiah* in March 2013, the **HK Phil Chorus** returns this season to feature in a number of major works including **Britten’s War Requiem**, **Ravel’s Daphnis et Chloé** and **Mendelssohn’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream**.

Title Sponsor of A Midsummer Night’s Dream: The Macallan

A Three-Year Composer in Residence Programme

HK Phil’s new **Composer in Residence Programme**, and the **Commissioning of New Works**, are generously sponsored by **The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation**, with the aim of enabling emerging young Chinese composers to work closely with one of Asia’s finest orchestras. Through a series of

commissioned short works created during the residency, the composer will explore the interchange between Chinese culture and the Western symphonic tradition. The first of the three composers will be **Fung Lam** whose work is to be premièred in the **HK Phil 40th Anniversary Gala** in June 2014.

CD Recording Project

In the second year of the multi-CD recording project with Naxos, the HK Phil will release works composed and conducted by the great Chinese composer, **Bright Sheng** (Programme: *Colors of Crimson* – fantasy for marimba and orchestra, *The Song and Dance of Tears* – sheng, pipa, violoncello, piano and orchestra and *The Blazing Mirage* – for violoncello and strings), featuring pianist **Chen Sa**, marimba virtuoso **Pius Cheung**, cellist **Trey Lee**, sheng player **Wu Tong** and pipa player **Li Hui**.

Sponsored by: AIA International Limited

Education and Outreach

The HK Phil's widely-acclaimed education programme brings wonderful music and a lot of fun to over 40,000 students every year. Supported by a 3-year sponsorship from **The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, Jockey Club Keys to Music Education Programme** invests in Hong Kong's musical future through purpose-designed schools' concerts, ensemble visits, instrumental masterclasses and teachers' seminars.

Swire Symphony Under The Stars, the biggest annual outdoor symphonic concert in Hong Kong, will take place on **29 November 2013** at the **New Central Harbourfront** and is expected to attract a "full house" of over 15,000 music lovers.

Be with Us

Club Bravo

Club Bravo connects our orchestra with lovers of symphonic music and the HK Phil with its audience. As a Club Bravo member, you have exclusive access to a side of the orchestra not usually seen by members of the audience; there are backstage visits, meet-the-artist sessions, open rehearsals, and much more. Members also enjoy special privileges including ticket discounts, priority booking, regular updates of HK Phil news and concert information, and a dedicated hotline.

bravo.hkphil.org

The Tung Foundation – Young Audience Scheme

Young Audience Scheme offers those aged 6 to 18 the chance to get close to their orchestra. Members can buy tickets with special discounts, attend selected concerts and events for free, save on their shopping with participating merchants – and have a heap of fun! A Young Audience membership is the perfect gift for any musical child.

yas.hkphil.org

The Young Audience Scheme is sponsored by The Tung Foundation

Social Media

The HK Phil's informative website hkphil.org offers the latest concert and ticketing information. Music lovers can also stay tuned for the HK Phil's updates on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/HKPhil, **Twitter** at www.twitter.com/hkphilharmonic and **Sina Weibo** at www.weibo.com/hkpo. Video from the HK Phil is also available on **YouTube** at www.youtube.com/HKPhilharmonic

Radio and TV Broadcast by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)

Music lovers can enjoy some of the most memorable performances by the HK Phil through the broadcasts of **Radio Television Hong Kong** which connect the HK Phil with an audience in all parts of the world.

The HK Phil would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the following partners for their support:

The Government of the HKSAR

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- Sunwah
- Wing Lung Bank

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- The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust
- The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation
- The Tung Foundation
- Wing Hang Bank

3 May Season Launch and Luncheon Media Photos (Photographer: Cheung Chi Wai)

[Please click the thumbnails to download the images]

01. Mr Y.S. Liu, Chairman of the Board of the Governors, Hong Kong Philharmonic Society, delivers his welcoming speech



02. Officiating Guests (from left): Mr Michael MacLeod, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Philharmonic, Maestro Jaap van Zweden, Music Director, Ms Florence Hui, Under Secretary for Home Affairs and Mr Y.S. Liu at the lighting ceremony



03. Maestro Jaap van Zweden and Mr Raff Wilson, Director of Artistic Planning talk about the new season



04. Maestro Jaap van Zweden



05. + 06. Officiating Guests and other distinguished guests in group photos



NOTES TO EDITORS

- The HK Phil's 2013/14 Season starts on **6 September 2013 (Friday)**
- **Season Subscriptions Priority Booking** deadline: **1 July 2013 (Monday)**
- Subscriptions Brochures are also available at the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Hong Kong City Hall** and other performance venues, **URBTIX outlets** and the selected bookshops, music stores and the HK Phil's website hkphil.org
- **Season Subscriptions Enquiries: 2721 2332** or ticketing@hkphil.org

DOWNLOAD

- **2013/14 Season Press Kit** (For users of IE7 or above, please use file explorer for direct access) /
Link: ftp://1314_pc:0503@202.60.244.165/
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