

**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: 1 August 2014

## **The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Proudly Presents Wagner's *Ring Cycle Part I: Das Rheingold* (22 & 24 January 2015)**

[1 August 2014, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) proudly presents Wagner's epic *Ring Cycle Part I: Das Rheingold*, the opera-in-concert conducted by **Jaap van Zweden** with an international cast led by **Matthias Goerne** as Wotan and **Michelle DeYoung** as Fricka, on **22 & 24 January 2015** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets are now available at URBTIX.

The gold of the Rhine River is stolen and fashioned into a Ring. The Ring gives power. It is sought by mortals and gods alike. But it is also cursed. Who will possess it in the end?

The HK Phil begins an awesome journey – to perform Wagner's mammoth Ring Cycle, with our Music Director Jaap van Zweden, over four years. The Ring Cycle included some of the greatest music ever composed. A major international cast will assemble in Hong Kong to tell Wagner's great musical story.

**Masterworks: *The Ring Cycle Part 1 – Das Rheingold*** will be held on **22 & 24 January 2015 (Thu & Sat), 8PM**, in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets priced: HK\$880, \$680, \$480, \$280 now available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call 2721 2332 or visit [www.hkphil.org](http://www.hkphil.org).

### **Artists**

#### **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 Orchestra since 2012/13 season.

The maestro has recently conducted the Vienna Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra and Chicago Symphony to high acclaims.

At the age of nineteen, Jaap was appointed as the youngest Concertmaster ever of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. Maestro van Zweden is also currently Music Director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Honorary Chief Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and Honorary Conductor of the Radio Chamber Philharmonic.

#### **Matthias Goerne, as Wotan** [[full biography](#)]

Goerne is one of the most internationally sought-after vocalists nowadays. He appeared on the world's principal opera stages since his opera début at the Salzburg Festival in 1997. He is also the Honorary Professor of song interpretation at the Robert Schumann Academy of Music in Düsseldorf in 2001-2005 and Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music in London in 2001.

#### **Michelle DeYoung, as Fricka** [[full biography](#)]

Multi-GRAMMY® awardee Michelle DeYoung is a regular performer at Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Teatro alla Scala and Theater Basel. She also worked regularly with Chicago Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

## Masterworks: *The Ring Cycle Part I – Das Rheingold*

22 & 24 | 1 | 2015

THU & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$880 \$680 \$480 \$280

Tickets now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#)

conductor

[Matthias Goerne](#)

as Wotan

[Michelle DeYoung](#)

as Fricka

Anna Samuil

as Freia

Kim Begley

as Loge

Charles Reid

as Froh

Oleksandr Pushniak

as Donner

David Cangelosi

as Mime

Deborah Humble

as Erda

Peter Sidhom

as Alberich

Kwangchul Youn

as Fasolt

Stephen Milling

as Fafner

Eri Nakamura

as Woglinde

Aurhelia Varak

as Wellgunde

Hermine Haselböck

as Flosshilde

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**Jaap van Zweden**

Photo Credit: Cheung Chi Wai



**Matthias Goerne**

Photo Credit: Borggreve



**Michelle DeYoung**



**Anna Samuil**



**Kim Begley**



**Charles Reid**



**Aleksandr Pushniak**

**David Gangelosi**



**Deborah Humble**



**Peter Sidhom**



**Kwangchul Youn**



**Stephen Milling**  
Photo Credit: Rune Evensen and Scanpix



**Eri Nakamura**  
Photo Credit: Chris Gloag



**Hermine Haselböck**



**HK Philharmonic Orchestra**  
Photo Credit: Keith Hiro / HK Phil

## Programme

**WAGNER**

*Das Rheingold* (opera-in-concert)

## Ticketing Information

Credit Card Booking

**+852 2111 5999**

Online Booking

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

For programme enquiry, please call HK Phil at

**+852 2721 2332**

Or go on our website:

[www.hkphil.org](http://www.hkphil.org)

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## Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is the city's largest and busiest musical organisation and is a vital part of Hong Kong's cultural life. This season it celebrates its 41st professional season, but its roots stretch back well over a century. The HK Phil has now evolved into 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 attracting over 200,000 music lovers. Featuring an enviable roster of international conductors and soloists, the HK Phil performs a broad variety of music, 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 in the last year.

The Swire Group Charitable Trust has been the Principal Patron of the HK Phil since 2006. Swire's enlightened support, the most generous in the orchestra's history, continues to enable the orchestra to reach towards high artistic goals.

The HK Phil's members come from every corner of the globe, with a 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 commenced a multi-CD recording project for Naxos, featuring works by Chinese composers.

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