

**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: 15 October 2014

**A Special Gift to Hong Kong from Your Orchestra  
Free Concerts by Vladimir Ashkenazy & the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra  
24 & 25 Oct 2014 at the HKU**

[15 October 2014, Hong Kong] **Vladimir Ashkenazy**, one of the world's greatest musicians, will join the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** for two free concerts – a special gift to Hong Kong from your orchestra – on **24 & 25 October** at **The University of Hong Kong**. **Free admission by registration!**

Ashkenazy conducted two enthusiastically received concerts with the HK Phil earlier this year, and it is a rare and very special gift to Hong Kong that he is performing here again so soon and for free admission! Ashkenazy will conduct three of Sibelius's most atmospheric and stirring pieces – the monumental *Finlandia*, the reflective *Swan of Tuonela* and the uplifting *Karelia Suite* – along with the intensely moving and profoundly beautiful second symphony by Ashkenazy's legendary Russian predecessor, Sergei Rachmaninov.

Join us for an unforgettable evening. Register between 15 October 2014 (Wednesday) to 21 October 2014 (Tuesday) to reserve your seats.

<http://bit.ly/1ttORL4>

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**A Gift for HK: Ashkenazy & HK Phil** will be held on **24 & 25 October 2014 (Fri & Sat), 8PM**, in the **Grand Hall, Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre, Centennial Campus, The University of Hong Kong**. Seats are limited and reserved on first-come first-served basis. Each person can register for a maximum of two tickets. A confirmation email will be sent to those who successfully registered for the event.

For enquiries, please visit [www.hkphil.org](http://www.hkphil.org).

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**Artists**

**Vladimir Ashkenazy, conductor** [\[full biography\]](#)

One of the few artists who has combined a successful career as a pianist and conductor, Vladimir Ashkenazy first came to world prominence in the 1955 Chopin Competition and the Queen Elisabeth Competition in 1956.

In 2009 he was appointed Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of Sydney Symphony and collaborates on extensive recording projects and international touring. He has previously held posts as Chief Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic and Music Director of the NHK Symphony. Ashkenazy continues his longstanding relationship with Philharmonia Orchestra (Conductor Laureate since 2000). In addition to world tours, he also developed landmark international projects such as 'Prokofiev and Shostakovich Under Stalin'.

## A Gift for HK: Ashkenazy & HK Phil

24 & 25 | 10 | 2014

FRI & SAT 8PM

Grand Hall, Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre, Centennial Campus, The University of Hong Kong

Free admissions by registration (<http://bit.ly/1tt0RL4>)

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Vladimir Ashkenazy](#)

conductor

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



**Vladimir Ashkenazy**  
Photo Credit: Keith Saunders



**The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**  
Photo Credit: Philip Chau

### Programme

**SIBELIUS** *Finlandia*  
**SIBELIUS** *The Swan of Tuonela*  
**SIBELIUS** *Karelia Suite*  
**RACHMANINOV** *Symphony no. 2*

For programme enquiry, please 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 (HK Phil) is the city's largest and busiest musical organisation and is a vital part of Hong Kong's cultural life. With its roots stretching back well over a century, the HK Phil made its professional début in 1974. It 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 200,000 music lovers. Through its acclaimed education programme, over 40,000 young people have learned about orchestral music last year. 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*.

The Swire Group has been the Principal Patron of the HK Phil since 2006. Through this sponsorship, which is the largest in the orchestra's history, Swire also endeavours to promote artistic excellence, provide access and stimulate cultural participation in Hong Kong, and to enhance Hong Kong's reputation as one of the great cities of the world.

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