

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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## Mr Y.S. Liu Awarded the Medal of Honour

**[31 October 2014, Hong Kong]** Mr Y.S. Liu, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Society Ltd, has been awarded the Medal of Honour by the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, in recognition of his valuable contribution to the development of orchestral music and promotion of music education.

Mr Liu has been Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Society since November 2008, during which time he has worked tirelessly to bring classical music into the Hong Kong community. He has also been sponsoring activities for young musicians in Hong Kong for many years. He is Chairman and Concertmaster of SAR Philharmonic Orchestra in Hong Kong and a member of the Executive Committee of the Asian Youth Orchestra. Besides, he founded the British Columbia Sinfonietta in Vancouver in 1992, and was the concertmaster.

"It is my great honour and privilege to be awarded the Medal of Honour by the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Music has been an important part of my life and I hope that through orchestral music and music education, more people from all walks of life can enjoy this great treasure, and eventually contribute to the cultural development of Hong Kong," Mr Liu said.

Mr Liu studied violin with the renowned Prof. Arrigo Foa in Hong Kong and was a member of the former Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra for several years, during which he appeared on numerous occasions as soloist performing violin concerti ranging from Mozart to Wieniawski. One of his noteworthy performances was his recording of the Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto which he premiered in Hong Kong in 1969. He was a frequent performer on radio and television both as soloist and member of the famed Foa Duo and String Quartet.

He was awarded Honorary Fellowship of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2013. He is Chairman of Jenston Group of companies in Hong Kong/China and founder of Y.S. Liu Foundation.

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Mr Y.S. Liu, MH

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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 and Richard Wagner's *Ring* Cycle.

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