

**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: 21 November 2014

## **Visionary Sounds: Jaap Van Zweden's Prokofiev Symphony no. 5 and Zimmermann's Sibelius Violin Concerto (12 & 13 Dec)**

[21 November 2014, Hong Kong] **Jaap van Zweden**, Music Director of the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** returns to the stage of the HK Phil with one of the world's great violinists, **Frank Peter Zimmermann**, in Sibelius' Violin Concerto on **12 and 13 December 2014** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**.

**"With his gorgeously ripe tone, easy swagger and intoxicating range of colour, Zimmermann is every inch the master."**

--- *Gramophone* on Zimmermann's recording of Sibelius' Violin Concerto

Jean Sibelius dreamt of being a star violinist, but a combination of injuries and simply starting on the instrument too late ruled out the possibility. But he used his knowledge of the instrument to compose his Violin Concerto, a work which is both dreamlike and fiendishly difficult, making supreme demands on the soloist. It is the most recorded 20th-century concerto, and Frank Peter Zimmermann is arguably its greatest living interpreter.

Alongside the Concerto's idyllic soundscape, Jaap van Zweden will conduct the triumphant Fifth Symphony by Sergei Prokofiev. Intended to inspire the Soviet people as the Second World War drew to its close, the symphony's first performance began as victory cannons were fired in Moscow. Prokofiev declared that in the Symphony he was attempting to "sing the praises of the free and happy man – his strength, his generosity and the purity of his soul".

**Classics: Visionary Sounds – Zimmermann/Van Zweden** will be held on **12 & 13 December 2014 (Fri & Sat)** at **8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets priced: \$500, \$380, \$280, \$180 are now available at [URBTIX](http://URBTIX). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [www.hkphil.org](http://www.hkphil.org).

**Free Pre-concert talks** are available on both nights:

<b>Date:</b>	12 December 2014 (Fri)	13 December 2014 (Sat)
<b>Time:</b>	7:15pm	7:15pm
<b>Venue:</b>	4/F Foyer, Auditoria Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre	4/F Foyer, Auditoria Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre
<b>Speaker:</b>	Prof. QIN Rong, Professor of Sibelius Academy of Music and Concert Pianist	Mr Dennis WU, Music Writer & Critic
<b>Language:</b>	English	Cantonese

### **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.

**Frank Peter Zimmermann, violin** [\[full biography\]](#)

Zimmermann performs with all major orchestras in the world, collaborating with the world's most renowned conductors. He has built up an impressive discography and has recorded virtually all major concerto repertoires. His achievements have been recognised with an Order of Merit, First Class, of the Federal Republic of Germany. Frank Peter Zimmermann performs on the Lady Inchiquin Stradivarius, a violin which formerly belonged to the legendary Fritz Kreisler.

## Classics: Visionary Sounds – Zimmermann/Van Zweden

12 & 13 | 12 | 2014

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$500 \$380 \$280 \$180

Tickets are now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#)

conductor

[Frank Peter Zimmermann](#)

violin

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**Jaap van Zweden**

Photo Credit: Cheung Chi Wai



**Frank Peter Zimmermann**

Photo Credit: Klaus Rudolph



**The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**

Photo credit: Cheung Chi Wai / HK Phil

### Programme

**SIBELIUS**  
**PROKOFIEV**

Violin Concerto  
Symphony no. 5

## **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 (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