

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: 15 December 2014

HK Phil's Epic Rachmaninov and Enigmatic Elgar with Exciting Uzbek Pianist Behzod Abduraimov (9 & 10 Jan)

[15 December 2014, Hong Kong] The first concert of 2015 from the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** features the 24-year old Uzbek pianist **Behzod Abduraimov** in Rachmaninov's epic Piano Concerto no. 3 under the baton of **Thomas Dausgaard**. Revel in the thrills and passion of this matchless masterpiece on **9 & 10 Jan** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. The concert also captures the tempestuous seascape of Scotland's west coast in Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides* and the elegance and emotion of Elgar's *Enigma* Variations.

"impressive poise and immediacy – a talent to watch"
--- Boston Globe

Behzod Abduraimov made his first appearance as a soloist at the age of eight with the National Symphony Orchestra of Uzbekistan. He won the London International Piano Competition in 2009, an achievement which prompted the *Daily Telegraph* to proclaim him "a gift from God". Experience this exciting new piano talent in one of the most daunting and challenging works in the entire piano repertoire.

Mendelssohn composed *The Hebrides* (Fingal's Cave) following a boat trip he made to the Scottish island of Staffa and its famous Fingal's Cave in his early twenties. Immediately after the trip he wrote to his sister, "how extraordinarily the Hebrides affected me".

Elgar's Variations on an Original Theme *Enigma* portray various friends and acquaintances of the composer in a set of characteristic variations of a theme which is the "Enigma" of the title – Elgar refused to say where the theme came from. Among these hugely popular orchestral portraits is one of a boisterous dog and the noble "Nimrod".

Classics: Rach 3 will be held on **9 & 10 January 2015 (Fri & Sat)** at **8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets priced: \$360, \$280, \$240, \$160 are now available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit www.hkphil.org.

Free Pre-concert talks are available on both nights:

Date:	9 January 2015 (Fri)	10 January 2015 (Sat)
Time:	7:15 – 7:45pm	7:15 – 7:45pm
Venue:	4/F Foyer, Auditoria Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre	4/F Foyer, Auditoria Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre
Speaker:	Dr Maureen Buja, Associate Professor of Music, Lingnan University	Mr Li Chi-man, Music Educator
Language:	English	Cantonese

Artists

Thomas Dausgaard, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

Chief conductor of both the Swedish Chamber Orchestra and the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Thomas Dausgaard was honoured as Conductor Laureate of the latter during 11/12 season. He was also nominated for a 2007 Gramophone award with his records of works by Carl Nielsen.

Behzod Abduraimov, piano [\[full biography\]](#)

Behzod Abduraimov was the Grand prize winner of the 2009 London International Piano Competition. He won the Choc de Classica and the Diapason Découverte with his début recital CD in 2012 as an exclusive Decca Classics recording artist. He will take part in the Prokofiev piano concerto cycle in Vienna and Dortmund under Valery Gergiev in 14/15 Season.

Classics: Rach 3

9 & 10 | 1 | 2015

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$360 \$280 \$240 \$160

Tickets are now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Thomas Dausgaard](#)
[Behzod Abduraimov](#)

conductor
piano

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Thomas Dausgaard
Photo Credit: Ulla-Carin
Eckblom



Behzod Abduraimov
Photo Credit: Ben Ealovega and Decca



The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo Credit: Cheung Chi Wai

Programme

MENDELSSOHN *The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave)*
RACHMANINOV Piano Concerto no. 3
ELGAR Variations on an Original Theme *Enigma*

Ticketing Information

Credit Card Booking

+852 2111 5999

Online Booking

www.urbtix.hk

For programme enquiry, please call HK Phil at

+852 2721 2332

Or go on our website:

www.hkphil.org

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For further press information please contact:

Doris Chan, Director of Marketing

Tel: +852 2721 9035 Email: doris.chan@hkphil.org

Becky Lee, Media Relations Manager

Tel: +852 2721 1585 Email: becky.lee@hkphil.org

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 corporate donation in the orchestra's history, Swire also endeavours to promote artistic excellence, foster access to classical music 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