

PRESS RELEASE
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HK Phil's First Europe Tour with Music Director Jaap van Zweden "Dazzling masterful" Chinese violinist Ning Feng's London début

[13 February 2015, Hong Kong] The forthcoming Europe tour of the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** begins in London on 24 February and continues to Vienna, Zürich, Eindhoven, Birmingham, Berlin and Amsterdam. On this tour, its first to Europe for over a decade, the HK Phil will be led by its acclaimed Music Director Jaap van Zweden and joined by renowned Chinese violinist Ning Feng. A new work, *Quintessence*, by Hong Kong born composer Fung Lam will be given its European première during the tour with performances in the UK, the Netherlands and Germany.

HK Phil's Music Director Jaap van Zweden said, "I know that touring overseas will help the HK Phil reach its potential as one of the world's best orchestras. If you want an international name and an international sound, you should go on tour."

The Orchestra's forthcoming international performances will be in London (24 February), Vienna (26 February), Zürich (27 February), Eindhoven (28 February), Birmingham (3 March), Berlin (5 March), with a private concert in Amsterdam (6 March).

Violinist Ning Feng was the first student at London's Royal Academy of Music ever to receive 100% for a final recital, and will be making his professional London début at Cadogan Hall with Beethoven's popular Violin Concerto. Said to be a natural performer with a phenomenal technical ability, Ning Feng's playing is characterised by a distinctive lyrical tone. At the age of 33, he is the leading string player in the new generation of Chinese instrumentalists dominated by pianists Lang Lang, Yuja Wang and Yundi Li.

Fung Lam's *Quintessence*, which was commissioned by the HK Phil, received its world première in 2014 at the orchestra's 40th anniversary gala concert. After its European première in London, the work will also be performed by the Orchestra in Eindhoven, Birmingham and Berlin. This 10-minute work by a native Hong Kong composer is part of the continuing ambition of the HK Phil to showcase the best music and talent from Hong Kong through an active commissioning programme, with the support from The Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation. Lam's distinctive musical language is profoundly expressive. His orchestral works have been performed internationally by orchestras including the BBC Symphony, London Symphony, Tokyo Philharmonic and New Zealand Symphony.

The London concert is sponsored by Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts.

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 acclaim. He 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.

At the age of nineteen, van Zweden was appointed as the youngest ever Concertmaster of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

Ning Feng, violin [\[full biography\]](#)

Born in Chengdu, China, Ning Feng studied at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, London. Prize-winner at the Hanover International, Queen Elisabeth and Yehudi Menuhin International violin competitions, he also was awarded First Prize at the 2005 Michael Hill International Violin Competition (New Zealand) and, in 2006, at the International Paganini Competition.

Ning Feng performs regularly in his native country, most notably with the Budapest Festival Orchestra and Iván Fischer in 2010, and is developing an international reputation as an artist of great lyricism and emotional transparency, displaying tremendous bravura and awe-inspiring technical accomplishment. Recent highlights have included débuts at the Schleswig-Holstein Festival, Moscow's Great Hall with the Russian State Symphony and Jurowski, the Vienna Konzerthaus with the China National Symphony, and at the prestigious Vancouver Recital Series.

Fung Lam, composer [\[full biography\]](#)

The Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Composer-in-Residence with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Fung Lam's compositions have reached a global audience through performances by the BBC Philharmonic, London Symphony, New Zealand Symphony and Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestras and his third BBC commission, *Endless Forms*, was premièred at the 2012 BBC Proms to critical acclaim.

Born in Hong Kong, Fung Lam studied composition with Martin Butler, Michael Finnissy and Michael Zev Gordon at the Universities of Southampton and Sussex in UK, and he was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree in composition from the latter in 2012. That year he also received the Young Artist Award from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

London

24 | 2 | 2015

TUE 7:30PM

Cadogan Hall, London

£40 £33 £27 £18

<http://www.cadoganhall.com/event/hong-kong-philharmonic-orchestra-150224/>

Vienna

26 | 2 | 2015

THU 7:30PM

Musikverein, Vienna

Zürich

27 | 2 | 2015

FRI 7:30PM

Tonhalle Zürich

Eindhoven

28 | 2 | 2015

SAT 8:15PM

De Lage Landen Zaal, Musiekgebouw, Eindhoven

€47 €40 €35 €28

<http://www.muziekgebouweindhoven.nl/detail/1892/hong-kong-philharmonic-orchestra>

Birmingham

3 | 3 | 2015

TUE 7:30PM

Symphony Hall, Birmingham

£38.5 £33.5 £27.5 £22.5 £9.5

<http://www.thsh.co.uk/event/hong-kong-philharmonic-play-beethoven-and-dvo-ak/>

Berlin

5 | 3 | 2015

THU 7:30PM

Konzerthaus Berlin

Amsterdam

6 | 3 | 2015

Private Concert

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#)

[Ning Feng](#)

conductor

violin

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Jaap van Zweden
Photo Credit: Cheung Chi Wai / HK Phil



Ning Feng



Fung Lam
Photo Credit: Vicky Shin



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo credit: Cheung Chi Wai / HK Phil

Programme (London, Eindhoven)

FUNG LAM	<i>Quintessence</i>
BEETHOVEN	Violin Concerto
PROKOFIEV	Symphony no. 5

Programme (Vienna, Zurich)

BEETHOVEN	Violin Concerto
PROKOFIEV	Symphony no. 5

Programme (Birmingham, Berlin)

FUNG LAM	<i>Quintessence</i>
BEETHOVEN	Violin Concerto
DVOŘÁK	Symphony no. 9, <i>From the New World</i>

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is regarded as one of the leading orchestras in Asia. With a history stretching back to 1895, when it was formed as the Sino-British Orchestra, the HK Phil was re-named in 1957 and became fully professional in 1974. This concert is part of a five-country, seven-concert tour of Europe, with performances in London, Vienna, Zurich, Eindhoven, Birmingham, Berlin and Amsterdam.

Thanks to significant subsidy from the Hong Kong Government and long-term funding from Principal Patron Swire, the Hong Kong Jockey Club and other supporters, the HK Phil now boasts a full-time annual schedule of classical music concerts, pops concerts, an extensive education programme, and opera (staged and in concert).

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Ning Feng, Matthias Goerne, Lang Lang, Yu Long, Yundi Li, the late Lorin Maazel, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Yuja Wang and Edo de Waart, the HK Phil's previous Music Director.

The HK Phil promotes the work of Chinese composers through an active commissioning programme, and has released recordings featuring Tan Dun and Bright Sheng, each conducting their own compositions, on the Naxos label. Its acclaimed community engagement programme brings music to ten of thousands of children annually.

Last season, the orchestra made critically-acclaimed tour performances in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Xiamen and Taipei. Future plans include tours to the USA, Japan and Korea.

This season is Jaap van Zweden's third as Music Director of the HK Phil. With him, the orchestra is undertaking major expansion and new projects, including the first-ever performances by a Hong Kong or mainland Chinese orchestra of Wagner's *The Ring of the Nibelung*. The four operas are being performed, one a year, in concert and recorded live for the Naxos label.

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, 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 Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.