

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
DATE: 16 June 2015

## **HK Phil Swire Denim: Famous Classical Hits Live and a Post-Concert Party for a Perfect Weekend Featuring Dazzling Hong Kong Talent Johnson Li at the Piano with Lio Kuokman Conducting (26 & 27 Jun)**

**[16 June 2015, Hong Kong]** Is classical music equal to dull? Not in the **HK Phil Swire Denim: Denim Classics**, which presents the very top of the classics' chart in an informal style, followed by a post-concert party at which you can enjoy drinks and nibbles, and meet some of our players. It's the recipe for the perfect weekend! Come join us on **26 & 27 June** at **9PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall** for the famous classical hits featuring 12-year-old Hong Kong prodigy **Johnson Li** at the piano with **Lio Kuokman** conducting.

Praised by the American press as 'a startling conducting talent' and for his 'grace and assurance' and 'beautiful sense of control', conductor Lio Kuokman will present the top hits of the classical canon. From Pachelbel's Canon in D – a wedding favourite - to Tchaikovsky's elegant *Polonaise*, this concert is the perfect introduction to orchestra's greatest hits – and a wonderful way to refresh your memory of the wealth of orchestral music.

**Swire Denim: Denim Classics** will be held on **26 & 27 June 2015 (Fri & Sat), 9PM**, in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets priced: \$300, \$220, \$180, \$140 are now available at [URBTIX](http://URBTIX). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [www.hkphil.org](http://www.hkphil.org).

**Post-Concert Party** exclusively for concert audiences and musicians will be held from 10:15pm to 11:15pm at HKCC Deli & Wine. Admission tickets (HK\$80) available shortly before each concert at Hong Kong Cultural Centre foyer cash bar. First come first served.

*Partner: Chevignon*

### **Artists**

**Lio Kuokman, conductor** [\[full biography\]](#)

Praised by the American press as 'a startling conducting talent' for his 'grace and assurance' and 'beautiful sense of control', Lio Kuokman is equally sought after as a conductor, piano soloist and chamber musician. He is currently the assistant conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, the first Chinese conductor in this position in the history of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Lio is the winner of the Theodore Presser Foundation Award for Young Conductors and the Marylyn Horne Foundation Award. He was the finalist in the First Chicago Symphony Sir Georg Solti Conducting Competition and has conducted the Philadelphia Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic, Danish National Symphony Orchestra and more.

**Johnson Li, piano** [\[full biography\]](#)

Johnson Li won the top prize in YiTian Cup Lang Lang Music World Youth Piano Competition (2011) and is the recipient of Langham Lang Lang Music Scholarship. Johnson performed with Lang Lang for many times and participated in his master classes. His orchestral debut with Shenzhen Symphony in 2012 received rave reviews.

## Swire Denim: Denim Classics

26 & 27 | 6 | 2015

FRI & SAT 9PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$300 \$220 \$180 \$140

Tickets are now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Lio Kuokman](#)

conductor

[Johnson Li](#)

piano

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



Lio Kuokman



Johnson Li



The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Cheung Chi Wai

### Programme

**COPLAND**

*Fanfare for the Common Man*

**MOZART**

Rondo in A Major, K. 386

**PACHELBEL**

Canon in D

**BARBER**

Adagio for Strings

**TCHAIKOVSKY**

*Eugene Onegin*: Polonaise

**MASCAGNI**

*Cavalleria Rusticana*: Intermezzo

**GLAZUNOV**

*The Seasons*: Autumn

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## Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) has recently returned from an extremely successful five-country, seven-city tour of Europe, with concerts in London, Vienna, Zurich, Eindhoven, Birmingham, Berlin and Amsterdam. Most concerts were sold out, there were standing ovations, and the reviews were universally positive. The concert in Vienna's Musikverein was filmed for future broadcast on TV. 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.

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 collaborations for staged opera with Opera Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

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 Hong Kong and 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 tens of thousands of children annually.

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  
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