

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: 29 August 2016

Three Glorious Romantics (4 & 5 November) Gems of the Romantic era

[29 August 2016, Hong Kong] German-born Maestro **Constantin Trinks** will take the podium with the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** on November 4 & 5 in a concert featuring three glorious romantic gems. The highlight of the programme is Schumann's Piano Concerto – a staple for every romantic music fan. The concert will also feature Mendelssohn's powerful "Reformation" Symphony and will be crowned by selections from Wagner's *Parsifal*. This concert takes place at the Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall at the heart of Hong Kong Island.

This concert features the young French pianist **David Fray**. An exclusive Warner Classics artist, David Fray's playing is described by *The New York Times* as "musically refined and technically elegant". The dashing pianist is sure to interpret the nuances of Schumann's Piano Concerto poetically and intimately. Maestro Trinks "spurs the orchestra on to the highest levels of performance" – *Frankfurter Neue Presse*. As the Chief Music Director of Staatstheater Darmstadt since the 2009/10 season, he has received critical acclaim for his dynamism and tempo, Viennese tone and transparency.

The concert opens with Mendelssohn's "Reformation" Symphony which culminates in Luther's powerful "A Mighty Fortress" majestically proclaimed by the brass. This is followed by Schumann's dramatic, soulful and melodic Piano Concerto, the only one he composed. Originally, the first movement was written as a Fantasy for Piano and Orchestra until Schumann's wife Clara urged him to extend the work into a Piano Concerto. Last but not least, Wagner's *Parsifal* was described by Wagner himself not as an opera, but as "*Ein Bühnenweihfestspiel*" ("A Festival Play for the Consecration of the Stage"). The mystical opera touches on themes of compassion, redemption and the legend of the Holy Grail.

City Hall: Three Glorious Romantics will be held on **4 & 5 November (Sat & Fri), 8PM** in the **Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall**. **Ticket prices: HK\$480, \$380, \$280, \$180 are now available at URBTIX**. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit www.hkphil.org.

Artists

Constantin Trinks, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

Constantin Trinks started as an assistant conductor to Christian Thielemann at Bayreuth and took up his first leading position in Saarbrücken. This was followed by an appointment in Darmstadt where he conducted Wagner's Ring Cycle. He came to international attention conducting *Der Rosenkavalier* at Semperoper Dresden in 2010 and at the Bavarian State Opera. He has since been a regular guest at opera houses including The Vienna State Opera, Opéra National de Paris, the New National Theatre Tokyo and Opernhaus Zürich. In symphonic repertory he has conducted the HR-Sinfonieorchester, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Concertgebouw.

David Fray, piano [\[full biography\]](#)

David Fray is an active recitalist, soloist and chamber musician. He has collaborated with many of the world's leading conductors including Pierre Boulez, Christoph Eschenbach, Riccardo Muti, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Jaap van Zweden. In Europe he has performance alongside the Royal Concertgebouw, Budapest Festival Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Deutsche Sinfonie Orchester, Orchestre National de France, Orchestre de l'Opéra national de Paris and more. His US performances have been with The Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic etc.

THREE GLORIOUS ROMANTICS

4 & 5 | 11 | 2016

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall

HK\$480 \$380 \$280 \$180

Tickets are now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Constantin Trinks](#)

conductor

[David Fray](#)

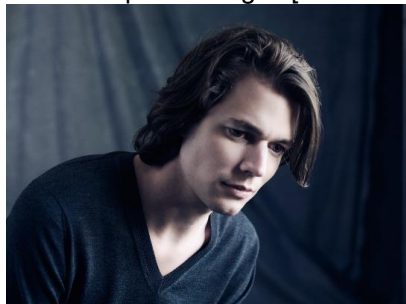
piano

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Constantin Trinks

Photo Credit:
Irene Zandel



David Fray

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Virgin Classics



The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

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Programme

MENDELSSOHN

Symphony no. 5, *Reformation*

SCHUMANN

Piano Concerto

WAGNER

Parsifal: Symphonic Excerpts

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For further press information please contact:

Deborah Hennig, Director of Marketing

Tel: +852 2721 9035 Email: deborah.hennig@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

Principal Guest Conductor: Yu Long

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is recognised as Asia's foremost classical orchestra. The Orchestra presents more than 150 concerts over a 44-week season and attracts more than 200,000 music lovers annually.

Jaap van Zweden, one of today's most sought-after conductors, is the Orchestra's Music Director, a position he has held since the 2012/13 concert season. Maestro van Zweden was recently announced as the next Music Director of the New York Philharmonic. This appointment will not affect his tenure with the HK Phil; his commitment to the HK Phil extends to 2022.

Yu Long was appointed for an initial three-year term in the 2015/16 season as Principal Guest Conductor.

Under Maestro van Zweden, the HK Phil is undertaking a variety of initiatives including a four-year project to perform and record the complete *Ring of the Nibelung* (Richard Wagner). The Orchestra is in the second of this four-year journey, performing one opera annually in concert. The performances are being recorded live for the Naxos label and mark the first performances by a Hong Kong or mainland Chinese orchestra of the entire *Ring* cycle.

Also under van Zweden, the orchestra undertook a highly successful five-country, seven-city tour of Europe in the 2014/15 season, with concerts in London, Vienna, Zurich, Eindhoven, Birmingham, Berlin and Amsterdam. Performances were met with enthusiasm and universally positive reviews. The concert in Vienna's Musikverein was filmed for broadcast on TV.

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 and Yuja Wang.

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. A recording was issued free to schoolchildren throughout Hong Kong of Britten's *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* and Leopold Mozart's *Toy Symphony*.

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.

Thanks to a 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.

The Orchestra became fully professional in 1974 and celebrated its 40th professional season in 2013/14.

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.