

PHOTO RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 13 September 2017

Music Director Jaap van Zweden and Piano Superstar Yuja Wang joined hands in HK Phil's very successful 2017/18 Season Opening Weeks

[13 September 2017, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) has concluded its busy season opening in which Music Director **Jaap van Zweden** and **Yuja Wang** performed five stunning concerts in two weeks.

“Hong Kong witnessed how this musical journey between van Zweden and HK Phil had matured to a new Everest in this most complex of scores in the standard orchestral repertory.”

--- Lam Pak Ling, *bachtrack*

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From Left to Right: Mr John Slosar, Chairman of Swire Pacific Limited; Maestro Jaap van Zweden, Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra; Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, Chief Secretary for Administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Mr YS Liu, Chairman of the Board of Governor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Society; Mr Marcelo Teixeira, Global Head of Bancassurance and Head of Strategic Development, QBE Insurance; Mr Michael MacLeod, Chief Executive of the HK Phil



Yuja Wang returned to perform Tchaikovsky's popular First Piano Concerto in the HK Phil's 2017/18 Season Opening Concerts



HK Phil's performance of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* with its primal rhythms and monumental power



From left to right: Maestro Yu Long, Principal Guest Conductor of the HK Phil; Mr Michael MacLeod, Chief Executive of the HK Phil; Mr YS Liu, Chairman of the Board of Governor of the HK Philharmonic Society; Mrs Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Mo Jaap van Zweden, Music Director of the HK Phil; Mr Jack So, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governor of the HK Philharmonic Society; Ms Michelle Li, Director of Leisure & Cultural Services, Leisure and Cultural Services Department; Mr Richard Bamping, Principal Cello of the HK Phil; Mr John Slosar, Chairman of Swire Pacific Limited



Yuja Wang shared the stage with three of the HK Phil's Principals – Jing Wang, Richard Bamping and Andrew Ling in Yuja and Friends: A Chamber Night



Yuja Wang playing Beethoven's poetic Piano Concerto no. 2



Jaap van Zweden led the HK Phil in Mahler's stupendous Fifth Symphony



The HK Phil 2017/18 Season Opening Concerts concluded with prolonged ovations

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For further press information please contact:

Meggy Cheng, Director of Marketing

Tel: +852 2721 9035 Email: meggy.cheng@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. Presenting more than 150 concerts over a 44-week season, the HK Phil attracts more than 200,000 music lovers annually.

Jaap van Zweden, one of today's most sought-after conductors, has been the orchestra's Music Director since the 2012/13 concert season, a position he will continue to hold until 2022. Maestro van Zweden will be the next Music Director of the New York Philharmonic from the 2018/19 season.

Yu Long was appointed Principal Guest Conductor with the HK Phil for a three-year period commencing with the 2015/16 season.

Under the dynamic leadership of Music Director Jaap van Zweden, the HK Phil has attained new heights of artistic excellence, garnering international critical acclaim.

Following on from the success of the European tour which included a filmed concert from Vienna's Musikverein, the HK Phil has toured extensively within the mainland China. In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, and with support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, the orchestra recently performed in Seoul, Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne and at the Sydney Opera House.

Jaap, the HK Phil, and a superb casts of soloists, have presented concert performances and recordings of the first three operas from Richard Wagner's epic *Ring* cycle. These have been enthusiastically endorsed by both audiences and critics at home and abroad, and in recognition of their quality, the orchestra and Jaap have been invited to perform Wagner's *Die Walküre* in staged performances at the Beijing Music Festival this October in a co-production with the Salzburg Easter Festival.

Conductors and soloists who have recently, or shortly will have, performed with the orchestra include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschbenbach, Matthias Goerne, Stephen Hough, Lang Lang, Yo-Yo Ma, Ning Feng and Yuja Wang.

The HK Phil promotes the work of Hong Kong and Chinese composers through an active commissioning programme, and has released recordings on the Naxos label featuring Tan Dun and Bright Sheng, each conducting their own compositions. Its acclaimed education and community engagement programmes in schools, hospital and outdoor space, bring music into the hearts of tens of thousands of children and families every year.

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 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 Charities Trust and other supporters, the HK Phil now boasts a full-time annual schedule of core classical repertoire and innovative popular programming, extensive education and community programmes, and collaborations with, among others, Opera Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

Originally called the Sino-British Orchestra, it was renamed the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra in 1957 and became fully professional in 1974. The HK Phil is a charitable organisation.

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.