

PRESS RELEASE
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Swire Denim Series: Final Fantasy: Final Symphony A Crossover Night of Videogame Series and Classical Music that Gamers Cannot Miss! (22 & 23 Nov)

[25 October 2017, Hong Kong] Audiences in Hong Kong will enjoy an exceptional musical evening when the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** presents its first ever performance of music from video games—Final Fantasy: Final Symphony.

2017 sees the 30th anniversary of the iconic video game Final Fantasy. The infectious music, primarily written by Nobuo Uematsu, has become familiar to video-gamers of all generations. The Final Fantasy: Final Symphony concert was premiered in Germany, and subsequently toured the UK, Japan, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. Finally it comes to Hong Kong. While the concerts have thrilled audiences, the album of orchestral arrangements of the music released in 2015 quickly hit the top on the iTunes Classical Chart. You cannot miss this long-awaited live performance!

An officially licensed series of concerts, Final Symphony will introduce symphonic music from FINAL FANTASY VI, VII and X, conducted by Hong Kong-born [Philip Chu](#), with [Mischa Cheung](#) as soloist. The concert opens with the **Final Fantasy Overture**—FF fans should immediately recognise some very memorable themes. Be enthralled by the adventures of Terra, heroine born with the gift of magic, in **FINAL FANTASY VI—Symphonic Poem**, and hear one of Uematsu's proudest movements in **FINAL FANTASY X—Piano Concerto**. The concert will end with the magnificent **FINAL FANTASY VII—Symphony in Three Movements**. Let your final fantasy live in concert!

Swire Denim Series: Final Fantasy: Final Symphony will be held on **22 & 23 November 2017 (Wed & Thu), 8PM**, in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets priced: HK\$680, \$580, \$480, \$380 are now available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit www.hkphil.org.

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Artists

Philip Chu, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

Born in Hong Kong, Philip Chu studied voice at the University of Sydney, and completed a Master's degree in conducting at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He has worked with The Metropolitan Opera and the Tokyo Philharmonic, Sydney Symphony, Melbourne Symphony, HK Phil, among others. As a chorus master, he has prepared various choirs for conductors including the late Lorin Maazel, Charles Dutoit and Gianluigi Gelmetti. He is currently chorus master for the Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus.

Mischa Cheung, piano [\[full biography\]](#)

Coming from a musical Swiss-Chinese family, Mischa Cheung studied with Prof Konstantin Scherbakov at the Zurich University of the Arts, and has taken up a busy career which has brought him to many concert stages and festivals throughout the world. Mischa is a member of the Gershwin Piano Quartet, a highly praised ensemble of four pianists who perform arrangements on four pianos. He also teaches piano and improvisation at the Zurich University of the Arts.

SWIRE DENIM SERIES: FINAL FANTASY: FINAL SYMPHONY

22 & 23 | 11 | 2017

WED & THU 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$680 \$580 \$480 \$380

Tickets are now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Philip Chu](#)

conductor

[Mischa Cheung](#)

piano

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



Philip Chu



Mischa Cheung



The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo Credit: Paul Wong / HK Phil

Programme

Jonne Valtonen

Fantasy Overture: Circle within a Circle within a Circle

Nobuo Uematsu

*FINAL FANTASY VI – Symphonic Poem: Born with the Gift of Magic
Terra's Theme | Kefka | Esper World | Battle etc.*

**Nobuo Uematsu,
Masashi Hamauzu**

*FINAL FANTASY X: Piano Concerto
Besaid | Hum of the Fayth | Thunder Plains | Assault etc.*

I. Zanarkand

II. Inori

III. Kessen

Nobuo Uematsu

*FINAL FANTASY VII: Symphony in Three Movements
Main Theme of FINAL FANTASY VII | J-E-N-O-V-A | Tifa's Theme | The Great
Warrior etc.*

I. Nibelheim Incident

II. Words Drowned by Fireworks

III. The Planet's Crisis

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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 Eschenbach, 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 and is Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.
SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.