

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
15 November 2017

Relax and revive your rhythm with Thibaudet! (15 & 16 Dec)

[15 November 2017, Hong Kong] The chic and sophisticated French pianist, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, will perform two very different piano works from East and West in the concert **Thibaudet plays Gershwin** to be held on **15 & 16 December 2017 (Fri & Sat), 8PM**, in the **Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall**. The concert also features Elgar's popular "Enigma" Variations. Don't miss!

"Sophistication and suavity, both clarity and freedom"

--- *The New York Times*

[Jean-Yves Thibaudet](#) will relax and revive the audience with the unforgettable jazz-infused music of George Gershwin, Variations on "I Got Rhythm", and Chen Qigang's *Er Huang*, a piano concerto inspired by the lyric vocal style and to celebrate the composer's Chinese heritage. This will be the much-anticipated Hong Kong Premiere.

Conducted by the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra's (HK Phil)** Principal Guest Conductor [Yu Long](#), the concert's second half will include Elgar's "Enigma" Variations. Humorous, playful, serious and solemn, each variation is a musical portrait of the composer's friends, with "Nimrod" being the most famous movement. To get everyone puzzling, the theme itself is said to be based on a famous tune, but since nobody knows what it is, the work has always been known as the "Enigma" Variations. A playful and enjoyable night of music with three different twists!

Tickets priced: HK\$480, \$380, \$280, \$180 are now available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit www.hkphil.org.

Artists

Yu Long, conductor [[full biography](#)]

The Principal Guest Conductor of the HK Phil, Yu Long is currently Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the China Philharmonic Orchestra, and Music Director of both the Shanghai and Guangzhou symphony orchestras. Having founded the Beijing Music Festival in 1997, Yu Long dedicates himself to cultural exchange and music development in China.

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano [[full biography](#)]

Thibaudet's recording catalogue of more than 50 albums has received two Grammy nominations, the Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik, the Diapason d'Or, the Choc du Monde de la Musique, the Edison Prize, and Gramophone and Echo awards. He was the soloist on the Oscar-winning film *Atonement*, as well as *Pride and Prejudice*, *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*, and *Wakefield*. Previously a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, Thibaudet was awarded the title Officier by the French Ministry of Culture in 2012.

THIBAUDET PLAYS GERSHWIN

15 & 16 | 12 | 2017

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

[Yu Long](#)

conductor

[Jean-Yves Thibaudet](#)

piano

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



Thibaudet plays
Gershwin



Yu Long



Jean-Yves Thibaudet
Photo Credit: Kasskara/
Decca



Hong Kong Philharmonic
Orchestra
Photo Credit: Cheung Wai Lok /
HK Phil

Programme

CHEN Qigang

Er Huang, for piano and orchestra (Hong Kong Premiere)

GERSHWIN

Variations on "I Got Rhythm"

ELGAR

Variations on an Original Theme *Enigma*

Calling all Ring-ers

Have you attended all three concerts of the HK Phil's *Ring Cycle*, and do you plan to attend *Götterdämmerung* in 2018? We are planning to host a special event for all *Ring-ers* to celebrate the completion of this amazing musical journey. Please email ring@hkphil.org with your name and contact details. We will follow up with you soon with the *Ring* celebration event details. Thank you!

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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.

Maestro Jaap van Zweden, 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 were 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 registered charitable organisation.

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and is a Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre
SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra