

PRESS RELEASE
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16 November 2018

“Staple of the Avant-garde” Max Richter’s Hong Kong Debut with the HK Phil
Amazing the audience with his best-known pieces - *Recomposed* and *Memoryhouse*
(30 November & 1 December 2018)

[16 November 2018, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is honoured to welcome [Max Richter](#), the pre-eminent Neo-Classical/Ambient composer of our era, to perform on the Hong Kong stage for the first time, with conductor [Robert Ziegler](#), violinist [Mari Samuelsen](#), soprano [Grace Davison](#) and the orchestra. They will perform two of his best-known compositions - *Recomposed* and *Memoryhouse*.

The artistry of composer and pianist Max Richter transcends boundaries and his wide range of works can be heard not only in the concert hall but also in dance and cinema (such as *Shutter Island* and *Arrival*). This prolific composer is best known for interweaving contemporary classical with popular music styles.

“Music”, says Max Richter, “is - to me - principally a way to talk to people. It’s about having a conversation, and if you want to have a conversation you have to speak intelligibly. You also have to have content: something to say. I wanted to develop a language that was plain-speaking and direct... so I looked for alternative ways to connect to an audience.”

Recomposed is a reinterpretation of Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons*, in which Richter retained 25% of Vivaldi’s original material, and the parts he used are phrased to emphasise his grounding in postmodern and minimalist music. *Recomposed*, an album that won Max Richter the 2018 ECHO Klassik Award and topped the classical charts in 22 countries, will be performed on the stage LIVE.

“[Max Richter’s] *Memoryhouse* has become a landmark of the amorphous scene that would eventually earn the tags ‘post-classical’ or ‘indie classical.’”
--- *Pitchfork*

Memoryhouse is Max Richter’s first solo album. Recorded with the BBC Philharmonic, this debut album was described by the *BBC Music Magazine* as “a masterpiece in neoclassical composition”. Max Richter and the HK Phil will explore real and imaginary stories and histories together with the audience.

Silver Screen Series: Max Richter Plays Max Richter will be held on **30 November & 1 December 2018 (Fri & Sat), 8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets price: HK\$580, \$480, \$380, \$280 are now available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](#).

Artists

Max Richter, piano and keyboard [\[full biography\]](#)

Max Richter's work embodies both the rigour of the Classical tradition and the experimentalism of contemporary electronica and is unafraid of appealing directly to our emotions. Richter's name has recently entered public consciousness through his many collaborations with filmmakers including Golden Globe-winner *Waltz with Bashir*, HBO's drama *The Leftovers*, and Tom Hardy's *Taboo*, which gained Richter his first EMMY nomination. Numerous directors, including Martin Scorsese (*Shutter Island*) and, most recently, Denis Villeneuve (*Arrival*), have used Richter's catalogue.

Robert Ziegler, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

In a lively and versatile career, Robert Ziegler has conducted masterpieces from Albinoni to Zappa and collaborates with artists across the musical spectrum. His extensive guest conducting includes London Philharmonic, Royal Opera House, San Francisco Symphony, Japan Philharmonic and many more. Ziegler has also recorded extensively, including Max Richter's ballet *Woolf Works* for DG, Ludovico Einaudi's *Divenire* with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic etc. Extensive works in the film include conducting and orchestrating *Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit*, and conducts films screened with live music including the film *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Psycho*, and *Taxi Driver*.

Mari Samuelsen, violin [\[full biography\]](#)

Norwegian violinist Mari Samuelsen has enjoyed a remarkable rise in the international concert stage through a characteristic mixture of artistry and enterprise. For more than 25 years she has collaborated in duo with her brother, cellist Hakon Samuelsen. In 2015 they released their debut album, *Pas de Deux*, Mercury/Decca (Universal), the centrepiece of which was a new work written for them by the Oscar-winning composer, James Horner. Samuelsen is the founder and artistic director of 'A Christmas concert from Norway' which she started together with her brother in 2003. She has also been artistic director of Yellow Lounge in Norway, bringing the Berlin-born club night to Oslo, keeping classical music in the mix at the forefront of contemporary art.

Grace Davidson, soprano [\[full biography\]](#)

Grace Davidson is an English soprano who specialises in the performance and recording of Baroque music. She won the Early Music Prize while studying singing at London's Royal Academy of Music. Her technical mastery plus musicality and exceptional purity of tone have broadened her career into the worlds of contemporary classical and film music and she has performed *Lord Of The Rings* in Europe and Australia. Davidson is a featured voice on over 100 film soundtracks including *The Hobbit*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Red Sparrow* and many more. Most notable has been her work with acclaimed composer Max Richter whom she has recorded *Sleep* and *Woolf Works* for Deutsche Grammophon.

SILVER SCREEN: MAX RICHTER PLAYS MAX RICHTER

30 | 1 & 1 | Dec | 2018

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$580 \$480 \$380 \$280

Tickets are now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Max Richter](#)

piano & keyboard

[Robert Ziegler](#)

conductor

[Mari Samuelsen](#)

violin

[Grace Davidson](#)

soprano

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Max Richter

Photo Credit: Mike Terry



Robert Ziegler

Photo Credit: Matthew Andrews



Mari Samuelsen

Photo Credit: Kaja Bruskeland _Decca



Grace Davidson



The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Cheung Wai-lok/HK Phil

Programme

Max RICHTER *Recomposed* (HK premiere)

Max RICHTER *Memoryhouse* (Asian premiere)

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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 at least 2022. Maestro van Zweden is the 26th Music Director of the New York Philharmonic from the 2018/19 season.

Yu Long has been Principal Guest Conductor since 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 2017, 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 performed in Seoul, Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne and at the Sydney Opera House.

Jaap, the HK Phil, a superb cast of soloists and a chorus successfully completed an epic four-year journey through Wagner's "Ring Cycle" in January 2018. The concert performances and live Naxos recordings have been enthusiastically received by audiences and praised by critics at home and abroad. The recording of *Götterdämmerung* is released in November 2018.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Joshua Bell, 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, the Hong Kong Arts Festival and the Hong Kong Ballet.

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.