

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Date: 30 November 2018**

## **Yu Long | Scheherazade** **Also features Alban Gerhardt in Barber's challenging Cello Concerto** **(14 & 15 December 2018)**

[30 November 2018, Hong Kong] As part of the celebratory programme for the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)**, our Principal Guest Conductor [Yu Long](#) will lead the orchestra in a programme that is full of different colours on **14 & 15 December** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. The concert starts with *Riding the Wind*, a compelling symphonic overture written by Chinese composer Guo Wenjing, Yu Long then partners with the star cellist [Alban Gerhardt](#) in American composer Samuel Barber's Cello Concerto. The orchestra completes the programme with Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, one of the classic Russian orchestral works.

**“One of the finest cellists around – expressive, unshowy and infinitely classy.”**

--- *The Guardian*

On the stage of the HK Phil, we will have Alban Gerhardt, one of the greatest cellists in his era that made a unique impact on audiences worldwide with his intense musicality, compelling stage presence and insatiable artistic curiosity. Alban Gerhardt's acclaimed cantabile playing will be perfectly showcased in Barber's highly demanding Cello Concerto.

Guo Wenjing is a member of the musical “New Wave” that has risen to prominence since the 1980s. He is regarded as one of the most important contemporary composers in China today. *Riding the Wind* is an exuberant symphonic overture commissioned by the Hong Kong SAR Government to celebrate Hong Kong's reunification with China in 1997. The passionate atmosphere of the music expresses the composer's hopes for the prosperity of the country and the peace of the world.

Closing the concert is Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, a musical re-telling of the beguiling stories told by the beautiful Scheherazade in the epic tale, *1001 Nights*. The composer's experience of travel to exotic lands as well as his mastery of orchestral colour provides a magnificent showcase for the HK Phil players. Look out for the alluring violin solo that represents Scheherazade herself, the young wife of the despotic sultan, who tells mesmerising stories in an effort to spare her life.

*15 December performance is sponsored by Alice Hung*

**HK Phil's 45<sup>th</sup>: Yu Long | Scheherazade** will be held on **14 & 15 December 2018 (Fri & Sat), 8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets price: HK\$480, \$380, \$280, \$180 are now available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](http://hkphil.org).

## Artists

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

Hailed the “most powerful figure in China’s classical music scene” by *The New York Times*, the preeminent Chinese conductor Yu Long holds positions as Chairman of the Artistic Committee of the Beijing Music Festival, Artist Director of the China Philharmonic Orchestra, Music Director of the Shanghai and Guangzhou Symphony Orchestras, the co-director of MISA Shanghai Summer Festival, and the principal guest conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. He frequently conducts the leading orchestras and opera companies around the world, including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, Hamburg State Opera, BBC Symphony Orchestra and many more.

### **Alban Gerhardt, cello** [\[full biography\]](#)

Alban Gerhardt is passionate about sharing his discoveries with audiences far beyond the traditional concert hall. His collaboration with Deutsche Bahn, involving live performances on the main commuter routes in Germany, vividly demonstrates his commitment to challenging traditional expectations of classical music. Following early competition success, Gerhardt’s international career was launched with his debut with the Berliner Philharmoniker and Semyon Bychkov in 1991. Notable orchestra collaborations since have included Concertgebouw Amsterdam, London Philharmonic, Tonhalle Zürich, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Orchestre National de France, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago symphonies.

## HK PHIL'S 45TH: YU LONG | Scheherazade

14 & 15 | 12 | 2018

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

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

Tickets are now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Yu Long](#)

conductor

[Alban Gerhardt](#)

cello

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



Yu Long



Alban Gerhardt

Photo Credit: Kaupo Kikkas



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-wai/HK Phil

### Programme

GUO Wenjing

*Riding on the Wind*

BARBER

Cello Concerto

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

*Scheherazade*

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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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 in 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.