

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: 19 November 2014

The HK Phil and Radio 4 Celebrate 40 Years of Fine Music Broadcasting (5 & 6 Dec)

Join by Star percussionist Li Biao, who performed at the closing ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and is Music Director of the Mercedes-Benz International Music Festival

[19 November 2014, Hong Kong] To celebrate the 40th anniversary of RTHK Radio 4, the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** will include a specially commissioned work by **Richard Tsang** in its concert on **5 & 6 December 2014** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Star percussionist **Li Biao** will also demonstrate the power of percussion, and conductor **Lawrence Foster** will bring his famous authority and style to Dvořák's masterful *New World* symphony. With kind permission of the RTHK, **Kathy Lam** and **Jonathan Douglas** will be guest artists of the concerts.

RTHK Radio 4 celebrates four decades of fine music broadcasting with this concert. The Percussion Concerto by Joseph Schwantner was commissioned for the 150th anniversary season of the New York Philharmonic, and calls on the soloist to demonstrate his virtuosity in a wide range of musical idioms and moods, as well as to indulge in considerable feats of improvisatory skill.

Dvořák's Ninth Symphony, *From the New World*, is one of the most popular ever written with its nostalgic longing for his Bohemian homeland and his impressions of the USA.

Classics: Radio 4, Live! A Birthday Celebration will be held on **5 & 6 December 2014 (Fri & Sat)** at **8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets priced: \$420, \$320, \$220, \$120 are now available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit www.hkphil.org.

Free Pre-concert talks are available for both nights:

Date:	5 December 2014 (Fri)	6 December 2014 (Sat)
Time:	7:15pm	7:15pm
Venue:	AC2, 4/F, Administration Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre	4/F Foyer, Auditoria Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre
Speaker:	Dr. Joanna C. Lee Musicologist	Mr Li Chi-man Lecturer at the Hong Kong Music Institute
Language:	English	Cantonese

Artists

Lawrence Foster, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

Currently the Music Director of l'Opéra de Marseille and Conductor Laureate of the Gulbenkian Orchestra, Lawrence Foster was previously the Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Gulbenkian Orchestra for ten years. He has conducted in major opera houses throughout the world including San Francisco Opera, Opéra de Monte Carlo and Welsh National Opera.

Li Biao, percussion [\[full biography\]](#)

Li Biao is one of the few outstanding solo percussionists on the international music stage. He performed at the closing ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and is Music Director of the Mercedes-Benz International Music Festival and the International Percussion Festival at the China National Centre for the Performance Arts.

Classics: Radio 4, Live! A Birthday Celebration

5 & 6 | 12 | 2014

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$420 \$320 \$220 \$120

Tickets are now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Lawrence Foster](#)

conductor

[Li Biao](#)

percussion

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



Lawrence Foster

Photo Credit: Marc Ginot



Li Biao



The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Philip Chau



Kathy Lam



Jonathan Douglas

Programme

RICHARD TSANG

Commentaries (first performance)

In celebration of RTHK Radio 4's 40th Anniversary

SCHWANTNER

Percussion Concerto

DVOŘÁK

Symphony no. 9, *From the New World*

Ticketing Information

Credit Card Booking

+852 2111 5999

Online Booking

www.urbtix.hk

For programme enquiry, please call HK Phil at

+852 2721 2332

Or go on our website:

www.hkphil.org

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is the city's largest and busiest musical organisation and is a vital part of Hong Kong's cultural life. With its roots stretching back well over a century, the HK Phil made its professional début in 1974. It has now evolved into an orchestral powerhouse in the region, and an acclaimed cultural centrepiece of Asia's World City.

The HK Phil is formed on the belief that a great city deserves a great orchestra. Annually it presents over 150 concerts attracting 200,000 music lovers. Through its acclaimed education programme, over 40,000 young people have learned about orchestral music last year. Featuring an enviable roster of international conductors and soloists, the HK Phil performs a broad variety of music, with many concerts presented free; among them the annual Swire *Symphony Under The Stars*.

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 also endeavours to promote artistic excellence, provide access and stimulate cultural participation in Hong Kong, and to enhance Hong Kong's reputation as one of the great cities of the world.

The HK Phil's members come from every corner of the globe, with a strong core of Hong Kong musicians. In September 2012 Jaap van Zweden became the orchestra's Music Director. Future years will see an ambitious series of new projects, with major international tours, renewed local partnerships and large-scale concert events. The HK Phil has commenced a multi-CD recording project for Naxos featuring works by Chinese composers and Richard Wagner's *Ring Cycle*.

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