

## PRESS RELEASE

### Record-Breaking Advance Subscription Results to Welcome the HKPO's New Music Director Jaap van Zweden

#### The Van Zweden Era Begins with

#### "Welcome, Jaap! A National Day Celebration" featuring Violinist Ning Feng in *Butterfly Lovers* (28 & 29 September)

Opening Performance Sponsored by Sunwah Group

29 September Performance Sponsored by Wing Lung Bank

[1 August 2012, Hong Kong] Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HKPO) today announces extraordinary and record-breaking results from its advance subscription campaign for the 2012/13 Season, the first under its new Music Director [Jaap van Zweden](#). The Orchestra's advance subscription campaign, which ended on 1 July, has yielded outstanding results; **the sales turnover per concert and the number of tickets sold per concert have exceeded the previous record set for the 2011/12 Season. The number of tickets sold per concert has increased 22% over the 2011/12 Season, and has broken all previous records.**

*"We are very pleased with the double digit results of our subscription campaign for the new season, which is a strong early indicator of the public's reaction to the exciting and innovative programmes devised by our new Music Director, Jaap van Zweden"* said Michael MacLeod, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Philharmonic. *"I also believe our unwavering commitment to the pursuit of excellence and the sheer hard work of everyone involved both on stage and behind the scenes, have contributed to this remarkable achievement."*

Amsterdam-born Jaap van Zweden is one of today's most sought-after conductors. Named *Musical America's* Conductor of the Year for 2012, he is currently Music Director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Jaap van Zweden's recent performances in the U.S including his début at Ravinia Festival with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, concerts with the New York Philharmonic and the Boston Symphony Orchestra have won tremendous acclaims from critics.

Appointed at age nineteen as the youngest ever Concertmaster of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, he began his conducting career in 1995, successively holding the positions of Chief Conductor at the Netherlands Symphony Orchestra (1996-2000), Chief Conductor of the Residentie Orchestra of The Hague (2000-2005) and Chief Conductor of the Royal Flemish Philharmonic Orchestra (2008-2011).

The inaugural concerts of Jaap van Zweden as the Orchestra's eighth Music Director reflect his high artistic vision. On **28 & 29 September (Fri & Sat)**, Jaap will be joined by two dynamic musicians – violinist [Ning Feng](#), who will be playing the *Butterfly Lovers* Violin Concerto, a household classic for Chinese as the celebration of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of PRC, and young composer and pianist [Conrad Tao](#), who has been commissioned by the Orchestra to compose a new work, *Pangu*, to mark Jaap's inauguration. “**Welcome, Jaap! National Day Celebration**” will be held at **8pm** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. The opening concert is sponsored by Sunwah Group and the 29 September concert is sponsored by Wing Lung Bank.

Tickets, priced at \$480 \$320 \$220 \$160 will be available at URBTIX from today. Free pre-concert talks will be given both nights at 7:15pm, also at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. For enquiries, please contact 2721 2030 or visit [www.hkpo.com](http://www.hkpo.com)

The new 2012/13 Season – JAAP! is a milestone for the HKPO. Throughout the season Maestro Jaap van Zweden will be joined by 50 superb soloists, guest conductors and groups. The season will open with great fanfare on **7 & 8 September (Fri & Sat)**, “**Bank of Communications brings to you: 12/13 Season Opening Concerts – Yundi's Tchaikovsky**”. The roll-call of stellar artists continues with international superstars pianist **Lang Lang**, violinists **Anne-Sophie Mutter** and **Nicola Benedetti**, cellists **Steven Isserlis** and **Jian Wang** and conductor **Vladimir Ashkenazy**, as well as collaborations with Chinese composers **Chen Qigang** and **Conrad Tao**.

### **Ning Feng, violin** [\[full biography\]](#)

Born in Chengdu, China, Ning Feng studied at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, London. Winner of the first prize in the 2006 International Violin Competition “Premio Paganini”, he has also won prizes at the Hannover International Violin Competition, the

Queen Elisabeth Music Competition, the Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition, and also first prize at the Michael Hill International Violin Competition.

Having performed regularly in China at the highest level, Ning Feng is now developing a reputation internationally as an artist of great lyricism and emotional transparency, displaying tremendous bravura and awe-inspiring technical accomplishment. Looking ahead to future seasons, Ning Feng is welcomed back by the Hong Kong Philharmonic and Auckland Philharmonia orchestras, makes his début with orchestras in Bilbao, Strasbourg, Zagreb, Sarajevo, Ljubljana and Moscow, and at the Prague Spring festival. He has been paired with conductors of great esteem such as Vladimir Jurowski, Jaap van Zweden, Sir Mark Elder and, most notably, toured China in 2010 with the Budapest Festival Orchestra under the baton of Iván Fischer.

**Conrad Tao, composer** [[full biography](#)]

Hailed by a *Musical America* critic as “the most exciting prodigy to ever come my way”, 17-year-old Chinese-American pianist Conrad Tao gave his first piano recital at age 4, and at age 8 made his concerto début. In 2011, the Gilmore Young Artist award winner was the only classical musician to make Forbes’ “30 Under 30” list. His first album for EMI, which includes three of his own compositions, was released in 2012.

As an accomplished composer, Conrad is an eight-time consecutive winner of the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer award. Conrad was composer-in-residence with Chicago’s Music in the Loft concert series. His String Quartet No.2 was commissioned by the Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music.

He was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts in 2011, and the “YoungArts” program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts awarded him a gold medal in music. Conrad currently attends the Columbia University-Juilliard School and studies piano at The Juilliard, composition at Yale University and studied violin at The Juilliard.

## Jaap Essentials: Welcome, Jaap! A National Day Celebration

28&29 | 9 | 2012

FRI & SAT 8PM

HK Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$480 \$320 \$220 \$160

Available at URBTIX from now

Opening Performance is sponsored by Sunwah Group

29 September Performance is sponsored by Wing Lung Bank

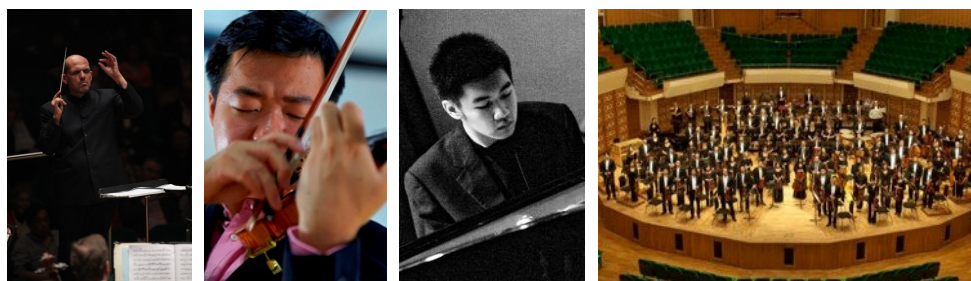
### Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#) conductor

[Ning Feng](#) violin

[Conrad Tao](#) composer

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



### Programme

**CONRAD TAO** *Pangu* (World Première, HKPO Commission)

**HE/CHEN** *Butterfly Lovers* Violin Concerto

**BEETHOVEN** Symphony No.7

## Ticketing Information

Credit Card Booking

**(852) 2111 5999**

Online Booking

[www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)

For programme enquiry, please call HKPO at

**(852) 2721 2030**

Or go on our website:

[www.hkpo.com](http://www.hkpo.com)

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## Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HKPO) is one of Asia's leading orchestras. Enriching Hong Kong's cultural life for over a century, the Orchestra has grown into a formidable ensemble of Chinese and international talents, attracting world-class artists to collaborate on its stage. The HKPO annually touches the lives of over 200,000 music lovers through more than 150 performances. From the 2012/13 season, Jaap van Zweden has become Music Director of the HKPO. Under his leadership, the HKPO will continue to develop its reputation for artistic excellence.

From April 2006, The Swire Group Charitable Trust became the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra's Principal Patron. Swire's sponsorship of the HKPO, the largest in the ensemble's history, supports artistic growth and development as the Orchestra takes its place on the world stage, and brings performances of musical excellence to the widest possible public.

The HKPO stays in tune with our city by presenting the Orchestra in unexpected venues and bringing the excitement of the concert experience to every home through radio and television broadcasts including the largest symphonic event of the year, *Swire Symphony under the Stars*, at Happy Valley. The Orchestra runs a comprehensive schools education programme, bringing the joy of classical music to primary, secondary and special school kids. The Orchestra also collaborates regularly with other performing arts organisations such as Opera Hong Kong in addition to its crossover series with Western and Chinese pop artists.

The Orchestra also builds its reputation and raises its artistic standards by touring. In September 2010, the HKPO returned to China, performing at the Expo 2010 Shanghai, Xi'an and Beijing to critical acclaim.

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