

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Unveils 2024/25 Season Featuring a Diverse Line-up of Programmes

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[6 June 2024, Hong Kong] Looking ahead to the 51st season and beyond, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) today announced its 2024/25 season line-up, presenting 30 mainstage programmes with internationally renowned conductors and soloists, the launch of HK Phil String Instruments Circle, the remastering programme of its performances with Spatial Audio for Apple Music and Apple Music Classical, and more.

Highlights of the HK Phil's 2024/25 season include:

- A celebration of the 200th anniversary of Anton Bruckner's birth with renowned conductors Tarmo Peltokoski and Vasily Petrenko;
- Internationally recognised conductor Daniele Gatti appointed as the HK Phil's Artistic Partner;
- World-acclaimed maestros in the spotlight – Tan Dun, Manfred Honeck, Pietari Inkinen, Paavo Järvi, Josep Pons, Jaap van Zweden, the HK Phil's Principal Guest Conductor Long Yu and Resident Conductor Lio Kuokman, and others. Film composer Alexandre Desplat is set to conduct his own scores;
- An array of renowned soloists, including star tenor Jonas Kaufmann who is set to make his Hong Kong debut, along with violinists James Ehnes, Augustin Hadelich, Bomsori Kim, Daniel Lozakovich, Esther Yoo and Frank Peter Zimmermann; cellists Gautier Capuçon, Li-Wei Qin and Camille Thomas; pianists Anna Fedorova, Stephen Hough, The Jussen Brothers, Mao Fujita, and Niu Niu; vocalists Thomas E. Bauer, Valentina Farcas, Arnold Livingston Geis, Catriona Morison, Nicholas Phan, María Toledo, Matthew White, Tian Haojiang, Yu Guanqun, Zhu Huiling, and more;
- HK Phil Principals joining the stage with Hong Kong artists – Jing Wang, Richard Bamping, Lin Jiang and Megan Sterling from the HK Phil; Hong Kong conductors Elim Chan, Teresa Cheung, pianist Chiyan Wong, composer Raymond Yiu, as well as the HK Phil Chorus, and the Hong Kong Children's Choir. Celebrated artist Agnes Chan will also grace the stage with her performance;
- The HK Phil will continue to make classical music more inclusive and accessible for diverse audiences through various activities, including the "Swire Music for Everyone" series, community concerts, education programmes and school visits.

Celebrating Bruckner's 200th Birthday

The year of 2024 marks the 200th anniversary of Anton Bruckner's birth. To celebrate this momentous year, two programmes will be presented in the composer's birthday month.

- In the 51st season opener, Finnish conductor Tarmo Peltokoski reunites with the HK Phil to present the Ninth Symphony of Bruckner, in time for the composer's 200th birthday week. Joining Tarmo is the highly anticipated debut of the young, spellbinding Swedish violinist Daniel Lozakovich. His immaculate technique and expressive depth promise to shine in Sibelius' ethereal Violin Concerto (5 & 6 September 2024).
- The commemoration of Bruckner's legacy continues with Vasily Petrenko returning to conduct the composer's Seventh Symphony. The masterpiece will be complemented with Grieg's Piano Concerto, performed by premier Ukrainian pianist Anna Fedorova whose playing is hailed as "unfailingly sensitive, poetic and tasteful" (*Gramophone*). An orchestral showpiece by Kazakhstani composer Erkegali Rakhmadiyev opens the concert. The concert is title sponsored by Swire (27 & 28 September 2024).

Programmes Conducted by the HK Phil's Artistic Partner Daniele Gatti

Renowned Italian conductor Daniele Gatti will conduct the HK Phil for three weeks during the 2024/25 season as the orchestra's Artistic Partner.

- Serving as the designated Chief Conductor of Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden, Daniele Gatti makes his HK Phil debut with a programme intertwining the beauty of nature with the genius of Mendelssohn and Beethoven. He is joined by the exceptional pianist Mao Fujita, the silver medallist at the 2019 Tchaikovsky International Music Competition and winner of the 2023 Opus Klassik Award in the Young Artist of the Year category, who will make his own HK Phil debut playing a Mozart concerto. The concert is sponsored by Chow Sang Sang (6 & 7 December 2024).
- Daniele Gatti also conducts the HK Phil in a performance of Gustav Mahler's monumental Third Symphony at the 53rd Hong Kong Arts Festival. This six-movement masterpiece traverses a vast emotional landscape. Mezzo-soprano Michèle Losier, the ladies of the HK Phil Chorus, and the Hong Kong Children's Choir join for the heavenly fifth movement, "What the Angels Tell Me" (13 March 2025).
- The last programme conducted by Daniele Gatti for this season brings together a powerful ensemble of over 100 musicians to bring two musical legends to life. Wagner's epic *Götterdämmerung* Suite condenses the *Ring* Cycle's grandest episodes, along the way showcasing the iconic "Siegfried's Funeral March". Additionally, Richard Strauss' *Ein Heldenleben* utilises an expanded orchestra to capture the composer's entire life in a tone poem (2 & 3 May 2025).

Conductors and Soloists in the Spotlight

- New York-based Chinese composer Huang Ruo reimagines four handpicked, beloved folk songs into *Folk Songs for Orchestra* with his vibrant and inventive voice. Vasily Petrenko conducts the annual National Day Concert with Li-Wei Qin joining for Haydn's Cello Concerto as soloist, along with spring-inspired compositions by Delius and Stravinsky. This concert is one of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre 35th Anniversary Celebration Programmes (20 & 21 September 2024).
- Austrian conductor Manfred Honeck returns to the HK Phil with Dvořák's Eighth Symphony. He opens the concert with his orchestral fantasy on Dvořák's opera *Rusalka*, written in collaboration with Tomáš Ille. Between these two works, Franco-Belgian star cellist Camille Thomas brings us a contemporary cello concerto she premiered: Fazıl Say's *Never Give Up* (1 & 2 November 2024).
- Praised as "a rare example of a young conductor at once brilliant and not in the least showing off" (*The Sunday Times*), Elim Chan returns to her hometown for Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony and a world premiere commissioned by the HK Phil under The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong Composers Scheme. The Grammy Award-winning Canadian superstar violinist James Ehnes, named Artist of Year by *Gramophone* magazine in 2021, dazzles the audience with his rendition of Tchaikovsky's Violin

Concerto in this Swire Maestro Series concert. This concert is also one of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre 35th Anniversary Celebration Programmes (22 & 23 November 2024).

- Maestro Jaap van Zweden is back on the podium to conduct four programmes in the 2024/25 season. Pianist Niu Niu also makes a welcome return, taking on the rarely performed Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto. Jaap leads the composer's Fifth Symphony in the second half of the evening (7 & 8 February 2025). In the following week, he conducts another HK Phil commission by Hong Kong composer Raymond Yiu. Especially written for violinist Esther Yoo, who wowed Hong Kong audiences as a young prodigy in 2013, Yiu's new concerto is framed by two works by Beethoven: the *Fidelio* Overture and the Seventh Symphony. This is a Swire Maestro Series concert (14 & 15 February 2025).
- Experience the sheer vocal prowess and charisma of "the world's greatest tenor" (*The Telegraph*) in his long-awaited Hong Kong debut. Hailed as one of the world's most significant and versatile tenors of his generation, the German-Austrian Jonas Kaufmann has graced the stages of all leading opera houses, performing in over 70 operas. This concert showcases favourite arias from some of Kaufmann's signature roles, including Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, Radamès in *Aida*, Don José in *Carmen*, and Calaf in *Turandot*. Conducted by Jochen Rieder, the concert is exclusively title sponsored by Rolex (19 & 22 February 2025).
- Grammy Award-winning conductor Paavo Järvi leads a programme that celebrates simplicity. The journey begins with *Swansong* composed by Estonian minimalist composer Arvo Pärt. Bomsori Kim, multiple prize-winner of prestigious international competitions, captivates the audience with Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto (4 April 2025).
- HK Phil Principal Guest Conductor Long Yu leads the orchestra in Edward Elgar's beloved *Enigma Variations* and Violin Concerto for another Swire Maestro Series concert. Acclaimed violinist Frank Peter Zimmermann takes centre stage to showcase his virtuosity in Elgar's passionate and lyrical Violin Concerto (22 May 2025).
- The charismatic Jussen brothers make their return to Hong Kong with *In Unison*, a concerto for two pianos composed especially for them by Joey Roukens. Promising a sparkling encounter with HK Phil Principal Timpani James Boznos, this dynamic Dutch duo reaches new heights performing with Jaap van Zweden. The concert's second half features Rachmaninov's Second Symphony (27 & 28 June 2025). Jaap concludes the 51st season with a grand performance of Beethoven's Violin Concerto in collaboration with Augustin Hadelich, 2018 Instrumentalist of the Year (*Musical America*). Featuring Wagner's Overture to *Tannhäuser* and Brahms' Symphony no. 4, the evening promises to be a fabulous finale with all-German programmes (4 & 5 July 2025).

More with Principal Guest Conductor Long Yu

- HK Phil Concertmaster Jing Wang and Principal Cello Richard Bamping join hands in Brahms' Double Concerto under the baton of HK Phil Principal Guest Conductor Long Yu. The evening is concluded by Schoenberg's orchestral adaptation of Brahms' First Piano Quartet. Both works end with high-spirited Gypsy dances. It is one of the Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo 2024 programmes (17 October 2024).
- With lyrics by Pulitzer Prize winner Mark Campbell and Brock Walsh, Aaron Zigman's new oratorio, *Émigré*, was co-commissioned by the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra under Long Yu and the New York Philharmonic. For its Hong Kong debut, Long Yu will conduct an international cast of singers in a poignant semi-staged production, including Matthew White, Arnold Livingston Geis, Zhu Huiling, Yu Guanqun, Tian Haojiang, Janai Brugger and Andrew Dwan, joined by HK Phil Chorus and Lanzhou Concert Hall Choir (26 April 2025).

Vocal Splendour

- Mozart loved *Messiah* and created a German-language version of Handel's masterpiece. It is performed by the HK Phil Chorus and four world-class soloists, Valentina Farcas, Catriona Morison, Nicholas Phan and Thomas E. Bauer during the Christmas season (20 & 21 December 2024).

- For the first time since performing the complete cycle from 2015-18, the HK Phil returns to Wagner's *Ring* with scenes from *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*. Finnish conductor Pietari Inkinen, praised by *Das Opernglas* as "one of the most inspired conductors who ever undertook the *Ring* in Bayreuth", leads the orchestra. Wagnerian soprano Ricarda Merbeth, known for her commanding portrayal of Brünnhilde, and Heldentenor Stefan Vinke, renowned for his powerful interpretation of Siegfried, join forces with the HK Phil for these concerts (17 & 18 January 2025).
- *Tea: A Mirror of Soul*, one of five operas by the world-renowned Chinese composer Tan Dun, premiered in Japan in 2002. Inspired by *The Classic of Tea* by tea master Lu Yu, the opera tells the love story of Seikyo, a Japanese prince, and Lan, a Tang Dynasty princess. The composer himself conducts this opera in concert, imbued with the essence of Zen (30 & 31 May 2025).

Holiday and Chic

- The HK Phil presents the world premiere of Wang Lin's newly commissioned work that explores the genesis of the cosmos and ponders the mystery of existence. Conductor Brad Lubman complements Wang's work with three modern classics by Igor Stravinsky, including his *Symphony of Psalms*, featuring the HK Phil Chorus (29 & 30 November 2024).
- "Whatever Stephen Hough plays, he either distils its essence or finds something strikingly new to say about it" (*The Independent*). The esteemed British pianist will perform Saint-Saëns' virtuosic *Egyptian Concerto*. HK Phil Resident Conductor Lio Kuokman brings his unique touch to this kaleidoscopic French programme, which wraps up with Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*. This is a Swire Denim Series concert (12 December 2024).
- The HK Phil celebrates the New Year in traditional Viennese style, with waltzes by Strauss, opera pieces from Mozart, and fabulous film scores by Korngold. Together with Australian conductor Benjamin Northey, Australian soprano Siobhan Stagg will grace the stage with her luminous voice, performing opera and operetta favourites. The concert is title sponsored by China Life (Overseas) (29 & 30 December 2024).
- Josep Pons, one of the leading Spanish conductors of his generation and currently Music Director of Gran Teatre del Liceu, takes the audience on a Spanish Fiesta featuring highlights from *La vida breve* and *El amor brujo*, two important works by Spanish composer Manuel de Falla. These are paired with Spanish-influenced orchestral pieces by Maurice Ravel, whose Basque heritage is omnipresent in his oeuvre. Charismatic flamenco singer María Toledo lends her voice to Falla's poignant melodies in *El amor brujo* (24 & 25 January 2025).
- Teresa Cheung makes her HK Phil debut in an enchanting all-Mozart programme commemorating the composer's birth on the same day in 1756. The concert commences with the witty overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*, followed by the magical Concerto for Flute and Harp featuring both HK Phil Principal Flute Megan Sterling and Tjasha Gafner, first prize harp winner in the 2023 ARD International Music Competition in Munich. The *Jupiter* Symphony provides the conclusion. This is a Swire Denim Series concert (27 January 2025).
- 2025 marks a double musical anniversary: the 150th birthday of Ravel and the 50th anniversary of the death of Shostakovich. This special French May Arts Festival concert opens with a brilliant performance of Shostakovich's *Festive Overture* under the baton of Austrian conductor Christoph Koncz. The debonair French cellist Gautier Capuçon takes centre stage for Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto. The concert concludes with three vibrant orchestral pieces by Ravel (8 & 9 May 2025).

For Kids and Families

- Experience the collaboration of renowned singer-songwriter Agnes Chan and the HK Phil, conducted by Resident Conductor Lio Kuokman in this Swire Family Series concert. Chan will share her heartwarming experiences meeting children around the world, pairing the inspiring stories with her songs (28 February & 1 March 2025).

Cinephile Favourites

- Under the big screen at the film-in-concert performances, the HK Phil plays The Academy and Grammy Award-winning score by Tan Dun from Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. This Swire Denim Series concert will be conducted by Australian conductor Benjamin Northey (3 & 4 January 2025).
- From the quirky charm of *The Grand Budapest Hotel* to the enchanting depths of *The Shape of Water*, French Oscar-winning composer Alexandre Desplat's impeccable scores add a touch of magic to every film he graces. He will conduct the HK Phil during the French May Arts Festival, treating the audience to cherished cinematic moments (20 & 21 June 2025).

Swire Symphony Under The Stars

- Mark your calendar: the HK Phil's signature annual outdoor mega-event, *Swire Symphony Under The Stars*, returns to the Central Harbourfront on 16 November 2024. Under the baton of Elim Chan, together with Chiyan Wong on the piano and HK Phil Principal Horn Lin Jiang, the HK Phil will embark with you on an extraordinary musical journey. Stay tuned for registration details.

Tours to the Greater Bay Area

In the 2023/24 season, the HK Phil embarked tours spanning 22 cities in 10 countries across Europe, Asia, and Mainland China. In the forthcoming 2024/25 season, the orchestra is set to return to the Greater Bay Area, including Guangzhou, Shenzhen and more.

The HK Phil String Instruments Circle

2024 is the 50th anniversary of the HK Phil becoming fully professional. On the occasion of this milestone and in collaboration with a group of fine instruments' collectors, the HK Phil is launching the HK Phil String Instruments Circle (the Circle).

The Circle is an instrument lending programme for high-quality string instruments which are typically inaccessible to musicians due to their high value. It is formed by Members who own, or would like to own, fine string instruments and who want to support the HK Phil by lending them to the orchestra through a professionally managed programme.

This initiative will allow the HK Phil to attract and retain the best musicians, raise the orchestra's and Hong Kong's international profile and enhance music culture in Hong Kong.

The Circle currently comprises a selection of 10 violins by Italian and French luthiers made in the XVIII and XIX centuries, including two striking examples by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini (Parma, c. 1757 and 1760).

On the occasion of the launch, Jing Wang, the HK Phil's Concertmaster, stated: "A good instrument in the hands of a musician is like an extension of our soul which enables a voice to communicate to our audience with a multi-faceted palate of colors. HK Phil is blessed to have this new collection of instruments. This will bring our signature sound to a more unique and refined world-class quality."

Philip Sohmen, one of the Circle's five Founding Members, declared: "The Circle provides Members the opportunity to steward valuable historical assets and allow these amazing instruments to serve the purpose for which they were designed and built hundreds of years ago, while delivering joy to audiences in Hong Kong and around the world". Other Founding Members include leading supporters of the arts and collectors Andrea Fessler and Laurence Scofield.

The instruments will remain the property of the owners, who authorise the HK Phil to lend them to the orchestra's musicians. The instruments will be properly cared for and maintained by the HK Phil, including ensuring regular inspections and full insurance coverage. The HK Phil is pleased to have partnered with well-known fine instrument experts J&A Beare of London as Principal Instrument Advisor to provide lenders with the best possible instruments, maintenance service and support.

Remastering in Spatial Audio with Dolby Atmos for Apple Music and Apple Music Classical

As the HK Phil commemorates its 50th anniversary and sets its sights on the future, the orchestra today announces a remastering programme of some of its finest performances for Spatial Audio with Dolby Atmos, now exclusively available on Apple Music and Apple Music Classical. Three albums are released today to deliver lively, immersive high-fidelity audio experiences for users of AirPods Pro, AirPods Max, HomePod, supported Mac models and other compatible devices, with more albums to come.

The revolutionary audio format of Spatial Audio with Dolby Atmos transports listeners to the best seat of a concert hall, offering an immersive 360-degree soundscape where music comes from every direction, making the listeners feel as if they were listening to a live performance. The initial releases are remastered by Anthony Yeung, award-winning sound engineer and master producer. Looking ahead, the HK Phil aspires to record upcoming major performances with Spatial Audio, and present these recordings on Apple Music and Apple Music Classical in order to provide immersive audio experience with true multi-dimensional sound and clarity for music enthusiasts worldwide. A demonstration by Anthony Yeung in collaboration with the HK Phil will take place in Apple Canton Road in Tsim Sha Tsui on 10 August 2024, and will be available for sign up at a later date through www.apple.com/hk/today/area/hong-kong.

Chair Endowment

The HK Phil is proud to announce that the Sun Hung Kai & Co. Foundation and the Kaleidoscope Charitable Foundation have respectively committed a three-year Chair Endowment Fund for the HK Phil's Concertmaster Jing Wang and Principal Viola Andrew Ling, commencing in the 2024/25 season. Together with the continued support from the C.C. Chiu Memorial Fund and the Tung Foundation towards Resident Conductor Lio Kuokman and Principal Cello Richard Bamping, these important supports empower HK Phil's musicians to shine locally and globally.

The HK Phil is extremely grateful for the sponsors who share the same values and support the endeavour of bringing talented musicians to the foreground. The endowment directly influences the orchestral section of the sponsored chair, providing critical support to the HK Phil for its future development.

Collaborating Performances

The HK Phil will collaborate with Opera Hong Kong for Puccini's *Turandot* (10-13 October 2024), and participate in The 4th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Culture and Arts Festival Opening Programme *Sound River* on 19 October 2024 presented by Leisure and Cultural Services Department. Stay tuned for more details.

Chamber Music Concerts

This season, the HK Phil presents two exciting chamber music series: one co-presented with HKU MUSE and another in collaboration with Tai Kwun. Selected HK Phil musicians will collaborate with three renowned pianists, Mao Fujita, Niu Niu and Hannes Minnaar, respectively, in three HKU MUSE programmes scheduled for 8 December 2024, 23 February 2025 and 11 May 2025. The Tai Kwun series, to be held on 4 November 2024, 10 February 2025 and 26 May 2025, will explore unique themes, showcasing a diverse range of composers and musical styles.

Subscription Period (12 June - 18 July 2024)

For the 2024/25 season, the HK Phil is delighted to re-launch the subscription plan. Create your own series by picking at least three of your favourite programmes. The more you order, the more you save. Subscribers are eligible for up to discounts of up to **30%**. Students, seniors, disabled and CSSA recipients enjoy 50% off for both subscription and single-ticket purchases.

Discount for Free Choice Programmes		
No. of Programmes	3 – 5	≥ 6
Discount	15%	30%

The 2024/25 HK Phil subscription period will have two phases:

- Club Bravo Gold members and 2023/24 subscribers can enjoy the best savings and secure desired seats from 12 June 10:00am to 26 June 11:59pm, 2024;
- Subscription for the upcoming 2024/25 season opens to the public, including all Club Bravo members, from 27 June 10:00am to 18 July 11:59pm, 2024.

How to Subscribe

There are four ways to subscribe:

1. Online: hkphil.org/2425sub-online **Go green and submit online to save admin fees**
2. Email: subscriptions@hkphil.org
3. Fax: 2721 1487
4. Post: HK Phil Subscription Office, Level 8, Administration Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

Subscription Enquiries:

Please call 2721 2332 / 2721 0132 (10am – 6pm, Monday to Friday) or email us at subscriptions@hkphil.org.

Counter Sales Open

**For programmes scheduled between September 2024 and January 2025:
8 August 2024 (Thu) 10am**

**For programmes scheduled between February and July 2025:
10 December 2024 (Tue) 10am**

Education and Outreach Initiatives of the HK Phil

Swire Music for Everyone

The “Swire Music for Everyone” series brings audiences to dive deep into specific orchestral works. These free events offer a glimpse of an orchestra in action, with live commentary, fun anecdotes and educational insights. Three concerts under the series will be staged on 27 September 2024, 22 November 2024 and 4 April 2025. Online registration is required. Details will be announced on the HK Phil website.

Swire Community Concerts

The HK Phil performs across the community with an aim to increase access to classical music. Free concerts are available for non-profit organisations and their networks. Special attention is paid to ensuring the concerts are enjoyable and accessible to people of all abilities and needs. Please stay tuned for details.

JC Project MuSE

JC Project MuSE is a school-based music and sports education programme, initiated and funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. The HK Phil is one of the project partners. Financial difficulties limit underprivileged children’s access to quality extra-curriculum activities in music and sports. JC Project MuSE offers free, high-quality and tiered music and sports programmes at primary schools in the most impoverished districts in Hong Kong. It aims to develop children’s artistic and physical literacy and to enhance their positive development, mental well-being, education performance and social opportunity.

JC Project MuSE is initiated and funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

The Young Audience Scheme and HK Phil Community Concerts

Presented by the HK Phil and sponsored by The Tung Foundation, the Young Audience Scheme aims to encourage local full-time students aged 6 – 25 to attend concerts and boost their interest in classical music. The membership offers ticket discounts, rewards, and a variety of activities, including open rehearsals and musical games. Free Community Concerts bring world-class orchestral music to communities in different districts each year. For more information, please visit hkphil.org/yas.

The Young Audience Scheme and HK Phil Community Concerts are sponsored by The Tung Foundation.

Connect with Us

The HK Phil's informative website hkphil.org offers the latest concert and ticketing information. Music lovers can also stay connected on the HK Phil's social media platforms, including Facebook (www.facebook.com/HKPhil), Instagram (www.instagram.com/hkphilharmonic/), LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/company/the-hong-kong-philharmonic-society-ltd), Xiaohongshu (<https://go.hkphil.org/xiaohongshu>), and WeChat (please scan the QR code below). Videos from the HK Phil are also available on YouTube (www.youtube.com/HKPhilharmonic) and Bilibili (<http://space.bilibili.com/1857720921>).

HK Phil WeChat Channel:



hkphil.org/follow-our-wechat

Thank You Partners

The HK Phil would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to the following partners for their support:

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Notes to Editors

- The HK Phil's 2024/25 season starts on 5 September 2024 (Thursday).
- Free Choice Programme – select three or more concerts to create your own season package, and enjoy a discount of up to 30%
- Subscribers' benefits include best savings, best available seats and flexible ticketing services.
- Season Subscription Booking Deadline: 18 July 2024 (Thursday)
- URBPIX public ticket sales start from 8 August 2024 (Thursday) (applicable to programmes held between September 2024 and January 2025)

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Principal Guest Conductor: Long Yu
Resident Conductor: Lio Kuokman, JP
Artistic Partner: Daniele Gatti

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is regarded as one of the leading orchestras in Asia. Presenting more than 150 concerts over a 44-week season, the HK Phil attracts more than 200,000 music lovers annually. The HK Phil won the prestigious UK classical music magazine *Gramophone's* 2019 Orchestra of the Year Award – the first orchestra in Asia to receive this accolade.

The HK Phil has flourished in the last two decades under Jaap van Zweden (Music Director, 2012–2024) and Edo de Waart (Artistic Director and Chief Conductor, 2004–2012). Currently, Long Yu serves as Principal Guest Conductor, Lio Kuokman is the Resident Conductor, and Daniele Gatti is the Artistic Partner.

Under the dynamic leadership of Jaap van Zweden, the HK Phil has attained new heights of artistic excellence, receiving international critical acclaim. The orchestra successfully completed a four-year journey through Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, performing and recording one opera from the cycle annually from 2015 to 2018. The concert performances were well received, and the live Naxos recordings were praised by critics, and garnered the *Gramophone* Orchestra of the Year Award 2019. Other recent recording projects include Mahler's Symphony no. 10, Shostakovich's Symphony no. 10, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony no. 6 and Piano Concerto no. 1.

The HK Phil has toured extensively across Mainland China. The orchestra undertook a major tour in 2017 to Seoul, Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne and Sydney in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The HK Phil celebrated its 50th anniversary in the 2023/24 season, touring Europe, Asia, and Mainland China, performing in 22 cities across ten countries.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Anja Bihlmaier, Stéphane Denève, Christoph Eschenbach, Paavo Järvi, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Tarmo Peltokoski, Vasily Petrenko, Krzysztof Urbanski, Joshua Bell, Ning Feng, Boris Giltburg, Lang Lang, Leonidas Kavakos, Olivier Latry, Yo-Yo Ma and Akiko Suwanai. The HK Phil promotes the work of Hong Kong and Chinese composers through an active commissioning programme, and it has released recordings on the Naxos label featuring Tan Dun and Bright Sheng, each conducting their own compositions.

The HK Phil runs diverse education and community programmes in schools and outdoor spaces, bringing 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 current sponsorship donation, which is the largest amount received in the orchestra's history, Swire endeavours to foster access to classical music and stimulate cultural participation in Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland – a critical aspect of this is to engage with the community, especially young people. The sponsorship will also help promote local artistic excellence and enhance Hong Kong's reputation as one of the great cities in the world.

Thanks to a significant subsidy from the Government of the HKSAR 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, amongst others, Hong Kong Ballet, 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.