

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: 15 January 2016

HK Phil Presents Bach's Six Brandenburg Concertos (5 & 6 Feb 2016)

[15 January 2016, Hong Kong] The **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** will present an invigorating baroque programme on **5 & 6 February 2016** in the **Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall**. The concert features all six of Bach's diverse, distinctive and delightful Brandenburg Concertos with **Benjamin Bayl** directing the HK Phil from the harpsichord.

Each concerto features an unusual combination of instruments as soloists, giving each instrumental family solo opportunities. Thought to have been written between 1711 and 1721, the pieces represent some of Bach's finest music for instrumental forces. In these performances, the superb talents of the Principal musicians of the HK Phil will be called upon to bring the music to life.

The six Brandenburg Concertos are widely regarded as some of the finest orchestral music of the Baroque era and paved the way for the great concertos of the Classical era. Originally Bach presented these six unrelated concertos to the Margrave of Brandenburg, who had expressed admiration for Bach's harpsichord playing during a visit to Berlin. The title of "Brandenburg Concertos" was only coined by Bach's early biographer, Philipp Spitta, 150 years later.

Director and harpsichordist Benjamin Bayl started playing the piano at the age of four and went on to be the first Australian Organ Scholar of King's College Cambridge. He studied conducting at London's Royal Academy of Music, and frequently conducts the major works of Bach, Handel and Haydn.

Classics: Bach – The Six Brandenburg Concertos will be held on **5 & 6 February (Fri & Sat), 8PM** in the **Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall**. Ticket prices: HK\$480, \$380, \$280, \$180 are now available at **URBTIX**. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit www.hkphil.org.

Lawry's The Prime Rib is the Gourmet Partner of the concerts.

Artists

Benjamin Bayl, harpsichord/director [[full biography](#)]

Benjamin Bayl was previously the Assistant Conductor to Iván Fisher and the Budapest Festival Orchestra. He has also worked with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Britten Sinfonia.

Classics: Bach – The Six Brandenburg Concertos

5 & 6 | 2 | 2016

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall

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

Tickets are now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Benjamin Bayl](#)

harpsichord/director

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Benjamin Bayl



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Philip Chau/HK Phil

Programme

BACH

The Six Brandenburg Concertos

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) has recently returned from an extremely successful five-country, seven-city tour of Europe, with concerts in London, Vienna, Zurich, Eindhoven, Birmingham, Berlin and Amsterdam. Most concerts were sold out, there were standing ovations, and the reviews were universally positive. The concert in Vienna's Musikverein was filmed for broadcast on TV. With a history stretching back to 1895, when it was formed as the Sino-British Orchestra, the HK Phil was re-named in 1957 and became fully professional in 1974.

Thanks to significant subsidy from the Hong Kong Government and long-term funding from Principal Patron Swire, the Hong Kong Jockey Club and other supporters, the HK Phil now boasts a full-time annual schedule of classical music concerts, pops concerts, an extensive education programme, and collaborations for staged opera with Opera Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Ning Feng, Matthias Goerne, Lang Lang, Yu Long, Yundi Li, the late Lorin Maazel, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Yuja Wang and Edo de Waart, the HK Phil's previous Music Director.

The HK Phil promotes the work of Hong Kong and Chinese composers through an active commissioning programme, and has released recordings featuring Tan Dun and Bright Sheng, each conducting their own compositions, on the Naxos label. Its acclaimed community engagement programme brings music to tens of thousands of children annually. A recording was issued free to schoolchildren throughout Hong Kong of Britten's *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* and Leopold Mozart's *Toy Symphony*.

This season is Jaap van Zweden's fourth as Music Director of the HK Phil. With him, the orchestra is undertaking major expansion and new projects, including the first-ever performances by a Hong Kong or mainland Chinese orchestra of Wagner's *The Ring of the Nibelung*. The four operas are being performed, one a year, in concert and recorded live for the Naxos label.

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, 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.

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