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Your HK Phil announces its 2017/18 Season

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[27 April 2017, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) and its Music Director Jaap van Zweden today announce its 2017/18 season – a line-up of 32 fabulous programmes. Highlights include:

- **Eight series of great music and performances (Jaap Essentials, Yuja!, Bravo, Classics, Swire Maestro, Swire Denim, Music For Kids / Swire Sunday Family, and Holidays & Pops)**
- **Jaap van Zweden leads the HK Phil to the final chapter of the *Ring Cycle*, *Götterdämmerung*, and through fabulous masterpieces including Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and classic symphonies (Mahler 5, Bruckner 8, Saint-Saëns 3, Shostakovich 7 and Dvořák 9)**
- **Superstar Pianist Yuja Wang in the Season Opening**
- **Renowned Japanese film score composer Joe Hisaishi in Concert**
- **Other great conductors and soloists include Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, James Ehnes, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Jian Wang, Vladimir Ashkenazy, and many more!**

Season Opening Concerts with Yuja and Jaap van Zweden

Stunning superstar pianist **Yuja Wang** teams up with HK Phil Music Director, **Jaap van Zweden**, for an unmissable, truly spectacular opening to the 2017/18 season.

The season kicks off with Yuja Wang who returns to perform **Tchaikovsky's** popular **First Piano Concerto** (1 & 2 September 2017), and the poetic **Piano Concerto no. 2** by **Beethoven** (8 & 9 September 2017). Yuja Wang will also share the stage with three of the HK Phil's principals – **Jing Wang**, **Andrew Ling** and **Richard Bamping** in **Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio in A minor** and **Brahms's Piano Quartet no.1 in G minor** (one performance only, 6 September 2017).

Season Opening: Jaap & Yuja; Yuja & Friends: A Chamber Night; and Yuja's Beethoven & Mahler 5 are accredited events celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

QBE is the Title Sponsor of the Opening Night Concert.

9 September performance is sponsored by Sunwah Kingsway.

Jaap van Zweden highlights in the HK Phil 2017/18 season

Music Director **Jaap van Zweden** will be conducting the HK Phil in SEVEN exciting concert programmes, including:

- ***Götterdämmerung*** (18 & 21 January 2018). The HK Phil's *Ring Cycle* journey reaches its final chapter. Previous opera-in-concert performances of *Das Rheingold* (2015), *Die Walküre* (2016) and *Siegfried* (2017) have all received rave reviews in the local and international press. Maestro van Zweden and the HK Phil are joined by a cast of Wagnerian stars including Gun-Brit Barkmin (Brünnhilde), Daniel Brenna

(Siegfried), Mikhail Petrenko (Hagen) and Michelle DeYoung (Waltraute). The journey we began three years ago finally reaches its dramatic climax.

- In the Yuja! series, Jaap van Zweden and the HK Phil will perform **Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*** (1 & 2 September 2017), with its primeval rhythms and monumental power, as well as **Mahler's *Fifth Symphony*** (8 & 9 September 2017), with its themes of death, love and the innocence of nature.
- Described by *BBC Music Magazine* as "the leading interpreter of Bruckner's Symphonies", Maestro van Zweden will conduct **Bruckner *Symphony no. 8*** (one performance only, 13 October 2017), the largest of the composer's completed symphonies.
- Towards the end of the season, Jaap van Zweden will stay with the HK Phil for three consecutive weeks to direct three great symphonies: The largest pipe organ in Southeast Asia adds its spectacular voice to **Saint-Saëns's *Symphony no. 3, *Organ**** (8 & 9 June 2018), the indomitable spirit of the people in Russia in the face of the horrors of war is celebrated in **Shostakovich's *Symphony no. 7, *Leningrad**** (15 & 16 June 2018), and as our esteemed Music Director embarks on his own New York venture, he pays homage to other musical figures who have lived the American dream in **Dvořák's *Symphony no. 9, *From the New World**** (22 & 23 June 2018).

Last but not least, at the invitation of Yu Long, maestro van Zweden will conduct the HK Phil in Wagner's *Die Walküre* at the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Music Festival. This co-production between Salzburg and Beijing, with Karajan's widow scheduled to be in attendance, also marks the 50th anniversary of the Salzburg Easter Festival founded by Herbert von Karajan in 1967.

Great Conductors and Soloists

The HK Phil is proud to bring many international stars as soloists and conductors to Hong Kong for its 2017/18 season.

Guest Conductors

Legendary conductor **Christoph Eschenbach** and amazing pianist **Tzimon Barto** return after their memorable 2015 Hong Kong debut to give us the passion and beauty of Brahms alongside joy and high spirits from Dvořák (6 & 7 October 2017). Swiss conductor, **Charles Dutoit** returns in a programme highlighting his special affinity with Stravinsky's spectacular scores and his instinctive feel for French music (17 & 18 November 2017). Young American-Korean violin sensation, **Esther Yoo**, and music's elder statesman, **Vladimir Ashkenazy**, showcase the harmony and unity of great music-making (25 & 26 May 2018).

HK Phil's Principal Guest Conductor **Yu Long** will conduct two versions of *The Song of the Earth* in one concert! Alongside Mahler's famous settings of the Tang Poetries in German translations, native Chinese composer, **Ye Xiaogang**, sets these ancient Chinese poems in their original language (27 & 28 April 2018). Yu Long will also bring dazzling musical fireworks from Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, in a concert joined by Dizi virtuoso **Tang Junqiao** with the Dizi concerto *Chou Kong Shan* by **Guo Wenjing** (15 & 16 September 2017).

16 September performance is sponsored by Wing Lung Bank.

Strings

World-renowned violinist **James Ehnes** returns to Hong Kong to offer us Leonard Bernstein's Plato-inspired *Serenade* (8 & 9 June 2018). One of the most popular cellists among Hong Kong music lovers, **Jian Wang**, performs Tchaikovsky's elegant *Rococo Variations* (15 & 16 June 2018). Both concerts will be conducted by Maestro van Zweden.

Pianists

Apart from Yuja Wang in our Trio of exciting season opening programmes, the 2017/18 season also features the chic and sophisticated **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** who will be playing the enticing *I Got Rhythm* by Gershwin, and the **Hong Kong premiere** of **Chen Qigang's** piano concerto *Er Huang*, a piece mixing Chinese traditional music with iconic western instruments. Conducted by HK Phil's Principal Guest Conductor Yu Long, the programme also includes Elgar's Variations on an Original Theme *Enigma* (15 & 16 December 2017). Do not miss the performance of **Nikolai Lugansky**, one of the best Rachmaninov interpreters of our time, in the epic Rachmaninov's Third Concerto (17 & 18 November 2017).

Hong Kong Talents

Local artists will continue to be part of our season. Assistant Conductor **Vivian Ip** will conjure up fantasy and fun with the help of The Puppet & Its Double Theater from Taiwan in a programme full of dancing dolls – The Magic Toyshop (22 & 23 September 2017). **Philip Chu**, chorus master for the Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus, is joined by Swiss-Chinese pianist **Mischa Cheung** in a programme of symphonic music from the video game series *Final Fantasy* written by Nobuo Uematsu - Final Fantasy: Final Symphony (22 & 23 November 2017), in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the game series.

Hong Kong born pianist **Chiyan Wong** will perform in the ever-popular New Year concert, A Viennese New Year (30 & 31 December 2017), while The Young Prodigies programme (2 & 3 February 2018) presents **Hannah Tam Wan Ching** as soloist in Mozart's Third Violin Concerto. Hannah was only 10-year old when she won the Andrea Postacchini Violin Competition in 2016. This concert will be conducted by young Australian conductor **Nicholas Carter**.

And from the ranks of the HK Phil, **Jing Wang**, **Andrew Ling** and **Richard Bamping** will share the stage with Yuja Wang in a chamber concert (one performance only, 6 September 2017), while Principal Clarinet **Andrew Simon** will be featured in Jaap, to the New World (22 & 23 June 2018).

Maintaining the momentum of last year's Composer Showcase activities, the HK Phil will continue to involve local composers in the 2017/18 season. Details are to be announced in due course.

More Programmes to Anticipate

Joe Hisaishi in Concert

Renowned for his scores for famous animator Hayao Miyazaki, Japanese composer-conductor **Joe Hisaishi** makes a triumphant return to the HK Phil following his sensational first appearance here in 2010 (4 & 5 May 2018).

Cirque de la Symphonie

The **Cirque de la Symphonie** will also return with all the fun of the circus, including acrobats, contortionists and jugglers, when they join the HK Phil and **Gerard Salonga**, one of our Assistant Conductors, for a concert of fun and super-human feats (11 & 12 May 2018).

Leonard Bernstein at 100

In celebration of the 100th birthday of the late, great Leonard Bernstein, the HK Phil will end its 2017/18 season with four exciting programmes include the **West Side Story - complete film with live music** (29 & 30 June 2018), and a dazzling, colourful and glitzy parade of **Leonard Bernstein's greatest Broadway musical hits** (6 & 7 July 2018). **Jaap van Zweden** will also conduct two concerts that open with **Bernstein's Candide Overture** (22 & 23 June 2018), and **Bernstein's Serenade** (8 & 9 June 2018) respectively.

Subscription begins now until 10 July 2017

The 2017/18 HK Phil subscription campaign will continue to have two phases. **Current subscribers can renew their subscription before 31 May** to enjoy not only the best savings and best seats but also the first opportunity to purchase tickets for **Joe Hisaishi in Concert**.

Subscription will then be open to the **public** from **5 June to 10 July**. During this period subscribers can still enjoy the best savings and can purchase tickets for **Joe Hisaishi**.

Subscribers are eligible for discounts up to 25%; the more concerts purchased, the greater the savings. Students, seniors, disabled and CSSA recipients receive 50% off subscription and single ticket purchases. After 10 July there will be no discounts for Joe Hisaishi in Concert.

How to subscribe

There are four ways to subscribe:

1. **Online:** www.hkphil.org/1718sub
2. **Mail:** HK Phil Subscription Office, Level 8, Administration Building, HKCC, TST
3. **Email:** subscriptions@hkphil.org
4. **Fax:** 2721 1487

Other Important Initiatives of the HK Phil

Jockey Club Key To Music Education Programme

Thanks to generous sponsorship from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the **Jockey Club Keys To Music Education Programme** has brought tremendous benefits to local teachers and students every season since 2012. More than 140,000 students and educators have been inspired by the musical activities – Schools Concerts, Ensemble Visits, Instrumental Masterclasses and Teachers’ Seminars – presented by the HK Phil. For more information, please visit ktm.hkphil.org.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust is the exclusive sponsors of the Jockey Club Keys To Music Education Programme

The Tung Foundation – Young Audience Scheme

Presented by the HK Phil and sponsored by The Tung Foundation, **Young Audience Scheme** has been founded for 20 years. It offers full-time local primary or secondary students exclusive access to your orchestra and world-class musicians. An HK Phil Junior will enjoy activities and events organised by the HK Phil, year-round privileges and discounts, as well as other rewards schemes and souvenirs. For more information, please visit yas.hkphil.org.

The Young Audience Scheme is sponsored by The Tung Foundation

HK Phil Community Concert

Music enriches the way people think, feel and live their lives. It helps build up a harmonious society, and because of this, the HK Phil values its role of bringing music to the community. The HK Phil Community Concert is a long-established initiative reaching out to students and communities, providing world-class symphonic music for the public of Hong Kong free-of-charge. We engage students in the Community Concert as a means of nurturing future local musicians and audiences. It also helps boost their confidence, communication, cooperation and listening skills.

Connect with Us

The HK Phil's informative website hkphil.org offers the latest concert and ticketing information. Music lovers can also stay tuned through the HK Phil's updates on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/HKPhil and **Instagram** at <https://www.instagram.com/hkphilharmonic/>. Video from the HK Phil is also available on **YouTube** at www.youtube.com/HKPhilharmonic.

Radio and TV Broadcast by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)

Music lovers can enjoy some of the most memorable performances by the HK Phil through the broadcasts of **Radio Television Hong Kong** which connect the HK Phil with audiences in all parts of the world.

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

Major Funding Body: The Government of the HKSAR

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- The HK Phil's 2017/18 Season starts on **1 September 2017 (Friday)**
- **Subscribers' benefits** include **priority seats, flexible ticketing services** and **best savings**
- **Season Subscription Booking Deadline: 10 July 2017 (Monday)**
- **Single Ticket** will be available at **URBTIX** starting **15 July 2017 (Saturday)**
- **Season Subscription Enquiries: 2721 2332 / 2721 0132** or subscriptions@hkphil.org

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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. The Orchestra presents more than 150 concerts over a 44-week season and 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. In addition, Maestro van Zweden will also be the next Music Director of the New York Philharmonic starting with the 2018/19 season.

Yu Long was appointed Principal Guest Conductor with the HK Phil for a three-year period commencing with the 2015/16 season.

Under Maestro van Zweden, the HK Phil is undertaking a variety of initiatives including a four-year project to perform and record the complete *Ring of the Nibelung* (Richard Wagner). The Orchestra is in the third of this four-year journey, performing one opera annually in concert. The performances being recorded live for the Naxos label are winning rave reviews internationally; and mark the first performances by a Hong Kong or mainland Chinese orchestra of the entire *Ring* cycle.

Also under van Zweden, the orchestra has toured to Taiwan, Europe and Mainland China, and it is undertaking an ambitious five-city tour to Seoul, Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne and Sydney in April - May 2017 in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Yo-Yo Ma, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Ning Feng, Matthias Goerne, Lang Lang, Yu Long, Yundi Li, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Yuja Wang and the late Lorin Maazel.

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*.

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.

Thanks to a 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.

The Orchestra celebrated its 40th season as a professional orchestra in 2013/14.

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.