

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HK Phil's 45th Anniversary Special Project - Mahler \$200: Symphony no. 7
Continuing the HK Phil's Mahler Cycle conducted by Jaap van Zweden
(16 & 17 November 2018)

[2 November 2018, Hong Kong] The 2018/19 season marks the 45th professional season of the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)**. Our Music Director [Jaap van Zweden](#), acclaimed as "A Great Mahler Interpreter" by *D Magazine*, continues the Mahler cycle with a project dedicated to this celebratory season - Mahler \$200, at which all seats for the Mahler symphonies no. 7 and no. 9 are available at a uniform price of HK\$200. Members of the audience can sit somewhere new to enjoy a different acoustical and visual experience.

Kicking off this special project is Mahler Symphony no. 7. For a long time treated as the "Cinderella" of his symphonic output - the neglected and sadly misunderstood member, but now one of the most enthusiastically discussed of Mahler's nine completed symphonies, Jaap's performance of this challenging work promises to reach right into the heart of this most unexpected of Mahler symphonies.

"[Mahler Symphony no. 7] Its beginning is still very dark, but at the end of the Seventh Symphony, the bright light is coming in, also the positive feeling is coming in into his life again."

--- Jaap van Zweden

Mahler started work on his Symphony no. 7 in 1904, which was a good year for him personally and professionally. He completed it in 1905 and continued making minor alterations until its premiere in 1908. Unfortunately, the years 1905 to 1908 witnessed a dramatic change in Mahler's fortunes. He lost his position at the Vienna Court Opera, his status in the musical community in Vienna; his first daughter died from scarlet fever; and he also experienced his own heart problems. All of which might explain why the original optimism and cheerfulness of the Symphony were subsequently tempered by the small but significant revisions Mahler made in the years leading up to its premiere.

"...if you dig into movement by movement, you see that [Mahler Symphony no. 7] there is some absolutely beauty to discover in this piece."

--- Jaap van Zweden

Mahler's Seventh is a challenging but fascinating symphony. His orchestral imagination ran riot in it, and he included instruments that seldom feature in the orchestra - tenor horn (a relative of the euphonium), mandolin, guitar, cowbells and deep-pitched bells; and producing surprising colours and sound effects from familiar instruments in the orchestra. All these help make Mahler's Symphony no. 7 an irresistible experience in the concert hall.

We look forward to sharing this wonderful event with you - HK Phil's Mahler cycle with free choice of seats at a uniform price at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall.

Mahler \$200: Mahler Symphony no. 7 will be held on **16 & 17 November 2018 (Fri & Sat), 8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets price: HK\$200 are now available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Note: Change of programme

At the request of the conductor, the repertoire of the concerts will be changed from Mahler Symphony no. 9 to Mahler Symphony no. 7. Ticket-holders may continue to use their tickets for admission according to the date printed on the tickets for the updated programme.

For ticketing assistance, please contact the HK Phil Ticketing Office at least **TEN** days before the concert date(s) (i.e. on or before 2 November 2018) from Mon to Fri (10:00am -12:30pm, 2:00pm-6:00pm), excluding Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays, at 2721 0132 / 2721 2332 or ticketing@hkphil.org.

Artist

Jaap van Zweden, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

Over the past decade, conductor Jaap van Zweden has become an international presence on three continents. The 2018/19 season marks his first as the 26th Music Director of the New York Philharmonic. He continues as Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, a post he has held since 2012 – his seventh season with the HK Phil in 2018/19 season, the orchestra's 45th professional season. He is also the Conductor Laureate of Dallas Symphony Orchestra where he has just completed a ten-year tenure at its helm. Born in Amsterdam, Jaap van Zweden was the youngest ever Concertmaster of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. He began his conducting career in 1995 and in 2012 was named Musical America's Conductor of the Year.

MAHLER \$200: MAHLER SYMPHONY NO. 7

16 & 17 | 11 | 2018

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$200

Tickets are now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#) conductor

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Jaap van Zweden
Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-wai/HK Phil



The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo Credit: Keith Hiro/HK Phil

Programme

MAHLER Symphony no. 7^

^Change of programme

At the request of the conductor, the repertoire of the concerts will be changed from Mahler Symphony no. 9 to Mahler Symphony no. 7.

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For further press information please contact:

Meggy Cheng, Director of Marketing

Tel: +852 2721 9035 Email: meggy.cheng@hkphil.org

Flora Fung, Media Relations and Communications Manager

Tel: +852 2721 1585 Email: flora.fung@hkphil.org

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. Presenting more than 150 concerts over a 44-week season, the HK Phil 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. Maestro van Zweden is the 26th Music Director of the New York Philharmonic from the 2018/19 season.

Yu Long has been Principal Guest Conductor since the 2015/16 season.

Under the dynamic leadership of Music Director Jaap van Zweden, the HK Phil has attained new heights of artistic excellence, garnering international critical acclaim.

Following on from the success of the European tour which included a filmed concert from Vienna's Musikverein, the HK Phil has toured extensively within the mainland China. In 2017, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, and with support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, the orchestra performed in Seoul, Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne and at the Sydney Opera House.

Jaap, the HK Phil, a superb cast of soloists and a chorus successfully completed an epic four-year journey through Wagner's "Ring Cycle" in January 2018. The concert performances and live Naxos recordings have been enthusiastically received by audiences and praised by critics at home and abroad. The recording of *Götterdämmerung* will be released towards the end of 2018.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Joshua Bell, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, Matthias Goerne, Stephen Hough, Lang Lang, Yo-Yo Ma, Ning Feng and Yuja Wang.

The HK Phil promotes the work of Hong Kong and Chinese composers through an active commissioning programme, and has released recordings on the Naxos label featuring Tan Dun and Bright Sheng, each conducting their own compositions. Its acclaimed education and community engagement programmes in schools, hospital and outdoor space, bring 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 sponsorship, which is the largest in the orchestra's history, Swire 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 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, among others, Opera Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Arts Festival and the Hong Kong Ballet.

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 charitable organisation.

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and is Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.