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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Announces its 2022/23 Season Programmes from September to December 2022

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[4 July 2022, Hong Kong] Today, the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** announces programmes and collaborations with esteemed arts groups from September to December 2022 of its 2022/23 Season. An array of virtuoso guest artists will be featured including four premieres. In this season, the HK Phil celebrates classical music that is timeless and transcendent. Let's sing an **Ode to Life!**

HK Phil Music Director Jaap van Zweden expresses his enthusiasm returning to Hong Kong to open the 2022/23 Season on 9 & 10 September 2022: "After such a long separation due to the pandemic, I greatly look forward to my return to Hong Kong in September 2022, and I cannot think of a better way to celebrate my reunion with Hong Kong audiences than with Beethoven's towering Ninth Symphony – its 'Ode to Joy' finale is the perfect joyful beginning to the HK Phil's 2022/23 Season."

HK Phil Chief Executive Benedikt Fohr is delighted to welcome the 2022/23 Season: "Daily life keeps us very busy, and for that we are grateful. However, to see and hear the collective energy and musicality of an orchestral ensemble brings both excitement and much needed balance to our busy lives. We cannot wait to inspire your soul with our music!"

Highlights of the 2022/23 Season (Sep - Dec 2022):

- Six programmes with Jaap! Starting with Beethoven's Symphony no. 9, from September through December, HK Phil Music Director Jaap van Zweden conducts a total of six exciting concert programmes, with renowned musicians including vocalists Barry Banks, Caitlin Hulcup, Shengyang; trombonist Jörgen van Rijen, cellist Jan Vogler, violinist Akiko Suwanai and pianist Niu

Niu; Hong Kong musicians Louise Kwong and Avan Yu; HK Phil Concertmaster Jing Wang and the HK Phil Chorus. The Maestro is also keen to present contemporary repertoire with premieres of Chinese composer Tan Dun, Dutch composer John Borstlap and Hong Kong composer Simon Yip Sai-man.

- Mega outdoor concert Swire *Symphony Under The Stars* and programme with a Chinese touch, both under the baton of Principal Guest Conductor Yu Long. Zee Zee, Yiwen Lu, Anna Zhang Jingdan and Caleb Woo, join these performances.
- Resident Conductor Lio Kuokman conducts concerts with innovative approaches and collaborations: Cantopop music with Johnny Yim, *Carmina Burana* co-presented with Hong Kong Ballet, Richard Strauss' majestic *An Alpine Symphony* with stunning photography and live projection by German photographer Tobias Melle and an orchestral rendition of Cantonese Opera *Floral Princess* with Utopia Cantonese Opera Workshop.
- China Life (Overseas) Proudly Sponsors: New Year Celebration conducted by distinguished conductor Andrés Orozco-Estrada, welcoming 2023 with a joyful and exuberant programme of dance music from Johann Strauss II and Richard Strauss, and overtures by Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky.
- HK Phil "Happy Autumn" Community Concert – Enjoy music for everyone by Tchaikovsky, Haydn, Johann Strauss II and Mozart, conducted by Peter Biloen.
- China Life (Overseas) Proudly Sponsors: New Year Celebration conducted by distinguished conductor Andrés Orozco-Estrada, welcoming 2023 with a joyful and exuberant programme of dance music from Johann Strauss II and Richard Strauss, and overtures by Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky.
- Collaborations with Opera Hong Kong and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology's Cosmopolis Festival.

Six programmes with JAAP!

- The 2022/23 Season kicks off with Music Director Jaap van Zweden conducting Beethoven's Symphony no. 9. From its tragic opening to its jubilant "Ode to Joy" finale, this symphony is one of music's greatest journeys. Mozart's elegant, playful Piano Concerto no. 22 opens the concert. Pianist Avan Yu, soprano Louise Kwong, mezzo-soprano Caitlin Hulcup, tenor Barry Banks, bass-baritone Shenyang and the HK Phil Chorus join for the season opening extravaganza (9 & 10 September 2022).
- Described as "the leading interpreter of Bruckner's symphonies" by *BBC Music Magazine*, Jaap conducts Bruckner's Symphony no. 7, alongside Tan Dun's Trombone Concerto *Three Muses in Video Game*, an Asia premiere featuring Jörgen van Rijen as soloist in these National Day Concerts (16 & 17 September 2022).
- HK Phil Concertmaster Jing Wang steps into the spotlight for the world premiere of John Borstlap's Violin Concerto no. 2. Mahler's Symphony no. 1 concludes the concert (18 & 19 November 2022).
- Jaap conducts Shostakovich's witty but powerful Symphony no. 9. The concert also features Britten's "Four Sea Interludes" and Elgar's sombre Cello Concerto with cellist Jan Vogler (2 & 3 December 2022).
- Continuing the Shostakovich journey, Jaap conducts Shostakovich's Symphony no. 5, together with Prokofiev's violin concerto with Akiko Suwanai. The concert opens with the world premiere of Hong Kong composer Simon Yip Sai-man's new work commissioned from the HK Phil and the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong Composers Scheme (9 & 10 December 2022).
- Pianist Niu Niu and Jaap join forces in two of Tchaikovsky's best-loved masterpieces: the romantic First Piano Concerto and the shattering Sixth Symphony (16 & 17 December 2022).

Concerts with a Chinese touch by Principal Guest Conductor Yu Long

- In a specially curated programme, HK Phil Principal Guest Conductor Yu Long conducts the orchestra's biggest annual outdoor symphonic event, *Swire Symphony Under The Stars*, at the Central Harbourfront, under the backdrop of Hong Kong's spectacular night skyline (12 November 2022). Keep an eye on the HK Phil website for free registration details!
- Eastern and Western musical traditions in close dialogue in concerts co-presented with HKU MUSE and led by Yu Long, with Chen Qigang's poignant *Un Temps Disparu* with erhu soloist Yiwen Lu and Fauré's Requiem with soprano Anna Zhang Jingdan and baritone Caleb Woo (4 & 5 November 2022).

Innovative collaborations — concerts led by Resident Conductor Lio Kuokman

- **HK Phil x Cantopop Music**
Celebrating the new season, HK Phil Resident Conductor Lio Kuokman and renowned composer/arranger/producer Johnny Yim come together for a concert featuring classic Cantopop arranged for orchestra, with a surprise guest appearance from a *STARS Academy* singer (2 & 3 September 2022).
- **HK Phil x HK Ballet**
The HK Phil and Hong Kong Ballet (HKB) co-present an epic double premiere: Under the baton of Lio Kuokman, acclaimed soloists, dancers, two choruses and the HK Phil come together to present the Asia premiere of HKB Artistic Director Septime Webre's choreography of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, preceded by the world premiere of *The Last Song* by HKB Choreographer-in-Residence Ricky Hu Songwei set to music by J. S. Bach (14 - 16 October 2022). The concerts are exclusively sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), and is one of the many initiatives supported by HKJC's approved donation of HK\$630 million to the Government of the HKSAR to mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.
- **Photography & Live Projection**
Set to stunning images of the Alps by Tobias Melle, Richard Strauss' *An Alpine Symphony* vividly recalls the adventures of a day in the mountains. Sharing the evening is violinist Alena Baeva playing Korngold's Violin Concerto (21 & 22 October 2022).
- **HK Phil x Cantonese Opera**
Based on the classic *Floral Princess* created by Tong Tik-sang, this brand new orchestral re-imagining is complemented by the exquisite on-screen interpretation by renowned acting duo Yam Kim-fai and Pak Suet-sin. For this rendition under Directors-General duo Joseph Chan and Ip Ka-po with producer Maurice Lai, director Rex Ng weaves together text, video and audio, while composer Lee Che-yi pens an original symphonic poem. Lio Kuokman conducts the HK Phil in this world premiere (23 & 24 December 2022).

China Life (Overseas) Proudly Sponsors: New Year Celebration

For its traditional New Year concert, the HK Phil joins with conductor Andrés Orozco-Estrada to usher in 2023 with a joyful and exuberant programme of dance music by Johann Strauss II and Richard Strauss, and overtures by Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky (30 & 31 December 2022).

Happy Autumn Community Concert

The HK Phil wishes to bring everyone a joyous musical autumn with music by Tchaikovsky, Haydn, Strauss and Mozart, conducted by Peter Biloen (23 & 24 September 2022). HK Phil Principal Trumpet Nitiphum Bamrungbanthum will play Haydn's Trumpet Concerto. Registration details for these free concerts sponsored by The Tung Foundation will be announced later.

Collaborations

The HK Phil collaborates with Opera Hong Kong for Verdi's *La Traviata* (5 - 9 Oct 2022), and HK Phil Principals are invited to perform in The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology's (HKUST) Cosmopolis Festival (25 Sep 2022) for the premieres of works by Augusta Read Thomas and HKUST Composer-in-Residence Ilari Kaila. Stay tuned for more details.

Chamber Music Concerts

Experience the passion and personalities of the individual musicians that make up the HK Phil through their chamber music performances! The extraordinary chamber music repertoire includes all styles of music in various combinations of instruments – from the Baroque period through the current 21st century, including new works by Hong Kong composers. In the 2022/23 Season, chamber music concerts are planned at Tai Kwun's JC Cube, the West Kowloon Cultural District's Tea House Theatre and Hong Kong Palace Museum, The University of Hong Kong's Grand Hall and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology's Shaw Auditorium. Stay tuned.

Discount Scheme at URBTIX

This season, the HK Phil continues to offer a flexible ticketing scheme with attractive discounts at URBTIX. For standard tickets, the **general public** can enjoy up to **15% off**, while **Club Bravo members** are entitled up to **an exclusive 30% discount**, plus other upgraded privileges and benefits. The more programmes you purchase, the more you save. **Tickets will be available on URBTIX from 8 August 2022 (Monday) at 10AM.**

<u>HK Phil 2022/23 Season</u> <u>September to December 2022 Programmes</u>		
No. of Programmes	1 – 3	≥ 4
Public Discounts	-	15% off
Club Bravo Member Discounts	15% off	30% off

How to Book at URBTIX

In Person: Visit any URBTIX outlet

Online: Visit URBTIX website www.urbtix.hk

Telephone: Credit Card Booking (available 10AM – 8PM daily) at 2111 5999

Mobile App: My URBTIX

For ticketing details, please refer to pages 43 to 45 of the Programme Brochure.

Watch & Listen

The HK Phil's mission is to make music accessible to everyone. Since the 2020/21 Season, the HK Phil has been broadcasting various recordings and streaming projects on its official website and social media channels, maintaining the connection between our audience and the orchestra.

The HK Phil's online channel "[Watch & Listen](#)" contains the orchestra's past sold-out concerts, exclusive educational programmes, videos about the musicians and other collaborative projects. Stay tuned this fall for the newly revamped **Watch & Listen** channel, with easier and dynamic navigation.

Education and Outreach Initiatives of the HK Phil

The Tung Foundation – Young Audience Scheme

Presented by the HK Phil and sponsored by The Tung Foundation, the **Young Audience Scheme** is one of the HK Phil's audience-building initiatives and is in its 26th year. This scheme encourages local full-time students, aged 6 to 25, to embrace the joy of classical music through a comprehensive membership experience. Members can enjoy exclusive opportunities and privileges, including meeting HK Phil musicians and its world-class guest artists, enjoying year-round reward schemes and souvenirs, participating in special activities and events and receiving exclusive discounts. For more information, please visit hkphil.org/yas.

The Young Audience Scheme is sponsored by The Tung Foundation.

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong Composers Scheme

Organised by the HK Phil and sponsored by The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong, **The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong Composers Scheme** provides a platform for local emerging composers to broaden their experience of orchestral writing. Four to six selected composers will be given the opportunity to have their orchestral works rehearsed and performed by the HK Phil at a Public Working Session and Showcase. Each year, one of these composers will be commissioned to write a new work, which will be premiered at a HK Phil concert. For more information, please visit hkphil.org/composersscheme.

The Composers Scheme is sponsored by The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong.

Community Concerts

The HK Phil believes music has the power to enrich lives and souls. By bringing music to the community, we recognise the role of classical music in forming a harmonious society. The HK Phil Community Concerts are a long-established initiative reaching out and providing world-class symphonic music for the Hong Kong public free-of-charge.

*The Swire Community Concert for special needs is Title-sponsored by Swire.
HK Phil Community Concert is 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 tuned through HK Phil's **Facebook** (www.facebook.com/HKPhil), **Instagram** (www.instagram.com/hkphilharmonic/), **Twitter** (twitter.com/hkphilharmonic), **LinkedIn** (www.linkedin.com/company/the-hong-kong-philharmonic-society-ltd), **Weibo** (www.weibo.com/hkpo) 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

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden, SBS

Principal Guest Conductor: Yu Long

Resident Conductor: Lio Kuokman

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. Recently 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.

Jaap van Zweden, SBS, one of today's most sought-after conductors, has been the orchestra's Music Director since the 2012/13 Season, a position he holds through the end of the 2023/24 Season. Maestro van Zweden has also been Music Director of the New York Philharmonic since the 2018/19 Season.

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

Lio Kuokman has been appointed Resident Conductor since December 2020.

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 enthusiastically received by audiences, and the live Naxos recordings were praised by critics, and garnered the *Gramophone* Orchestra of the Year Award 2019.

The HK Phil has toured extensively across Mainland China and, with the support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, 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 of the People's Republic of China.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Joshua Bell, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, Renée Fleming, Ning Feng, Stephen Hough, Evgeny Kissin, Katia and Marielle Labèque, Lang Lang, Yo-Yo Ma, Leonard Slatkin 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 conducting their own compositions. Its acclaimed education and community engagement programmes in schools, hospitals, and outdoor spaces, bring music into the hearts of tens of thousands of children and families every year. The recently founded "The Orchestra Academy Hong Kong", funded by "TrustTomorrow" of The Swire Group Charitable Trust and co-directed with The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, aims at enhancing professional training for graduates from The HKAPA's School of Music and facilitating their career development in the orchestral field.

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, stimulate cultural participation in Hong Kong, 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.