

PRESS RELEASE
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The HK Phil Celebrates National Day with Music of Heroes and Legends



[2 September 2025, Hong Kong] In celebration of the National Day, Long Yu, Principal Guest Conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil), will lead the orchestra in a programme filled with music of heroes and legends. Featuring HK Phil Concertmaster Jing Wang and dizi player Feng Tianshi, the concert will be held on 26 September 2025 (Fri) at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall.

The evening kicks off with Shostakovich's *Festive Overture*. Opening with a stately, full-bodied brass fanfare, the piece launches with ceremonial music that makes for an impressive call to attention, gathering weight and colour as more instruments join in. With the increasing tempo accompanied by impelling rhythmic patterns, audience will be captivated by the magnificent momentum throughout the piece. Designed to open a concert with instant brilliance, the *Festive Overture* is a brilliant example of Shostakovich's theatrical instincts and his gift for aural spectacle.

Following is the Hong Kong premiere of Tan Dun's Violin Concerto, *Hero*, showcasing HK Phil Concertmaster Jing Wang as soloist. An Academy Award-winning composer and UNESCO Global Goodwill Ambassador, Tan has made an indelible mark on the world's music scene with a creative repertoire that crosses the boundaries between classical music, multimedia performance, and Eastern and Western traditions. Based on the composer's own score for the critically-acclaimed martial arts film *Hero*, the concerto echoes the film's grandness, embodied by the film character Snow's self-sacrifice for her country.

The programme culminates with another Hong Kong premiere, *Wuxia - Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Jin Yong* by local composer Elliot Leung. *Wuxia* is a symphonic exploration of the rich narratives and iconic characters from the works of Jin Yong, the master of martial arts fiction. With five programmatic movements, the piece weaves together leitmotifs representing heroes, battles, love, and deception. Each movement portrays a self-contained story, while forming a grand epic together. Feng Tianshi, renowned for her mastery of dizi, will take the centre stage in this performance.

"National Day Concert: Music of Heroes and Legends" will be held on 26 September 2025 (Fri) at 7:30PM at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$520, \$420, \$320 and \$220 are available at URB.TIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Sponsor: CMB Wing Lung Bank

This concert is one of the activities in the Chinese Culture Promotion Series

Artists

Long Yu, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “the most powerful figure in China’s classical music scene”, the conductor and impresario Long Yu has devoted his illustrious career to steering China’s growing connection to classical music. Maestro Yu currently holds the top position in the country’s most prominent orchestras: Artistic Director of the China Philharmonic Orchestra in Beijing, and Music Director of the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra. He is also the Principal Guest Conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, co-director of Shanghai’s Music in the Summer Air festival, and Chair of the Artistic Committee of the Beijing Music Festival. He is currently Vice President of the China Musicians Association and Chairman of its League of China Orchestras.

Jing Wang, violin [\[full description\]](#)

Jing Wang, Concertmaster of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, is one of the most versatile and dynamic violinists of his generation. Since making his solo recital debut in Marseilles, France, at the age of six, Wang has won numerous awards in top international competitions, including first prize at the 2007 Irving M. Klein International Strings Competition. In 2003, he was awarded the “Young Soloist of the Year” by Les Radios Francophones Publiques, a broadcast network spanning France, Canada, Switzerland, and Belgium.

Feng Tianshi, dizi [\[full description\]](#)

Feng Tianshi, Chinese bamboo (Dizi) flautist, is a winner of the Gold Prize from the “WenHua” Grand Chinese Instruments Competition organised by the China Ministry of Culture for solo performance and chamber music performance. She is currently a teacher at the Central Conservatory of Music while pursuing her Doctoral degree, studying Dizi under Professor Yuan Feifan.

National Day Concert: Music of Heroes and Legends

26 | 9 | 2025

FRI 7:30PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$520 \$420 \$320 \$220

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Long Yu](#)

conductor

[Jing Wang](#)

violin

[Feng Tianshi](#)

dizi

Programme

SHOSTAKOVICH

Festive Overture, op.96

TAN Dun

Violin Concerto, Hero (Hong Kong Premiere)

Elliot LEUNG

Wuxia - Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Jin Yong (Hong Kong Premiere)

[Download](#) press images



Long Yu
Photo: Liu Hui



Jing Wang
Photo: Eric Hong/HK Phil



Feng Tianshi



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo: Ka Lam/HK Phil

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director Designate: Tarmo Peltokoski
Principal Guest Conductor: Long Yu
Resident Conductor: Lio Kuokman, JP
Composer-in-Residence: Esa-Pekka Salonen

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.

Tarmo Peltokoski is the HK Phil's Music Director Designate in 2025/26 and will become Music Director in the 2026/27 season. Currently, Long Yu serves as Principal Guest Conductor and Lio Kuokman is Resident Conductor. Esa-Pekka Salonen is Composer-in-Residence in the 2025/26 season.

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). 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 collaborates with Deutsche Grammophon and is set to release Wagner's *The Ring: An Orchestral Adventure* arranged by Henk de Vlieger and conducted by Tarmo Peltokoski.

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 toured Europe, Asia, and Mainland China, performing in 22 cities across ten countries in its 50th anniversary. In the 2025/26 season, the orchestra will perform in Europe, Japan, Korea and Mainland China again.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Anja Bihlmaier, Stéphane Denève, Christoph Eschenbach, Daniel Gatti, Daniel Harding, Pietari Inkinen, Paavo Järvi, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Vasily Petrenko, Joshua Bell, Ning Feng, Stephen Hough, Jonas Kaufmann, 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, the largest 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 engaging 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.

The history of the HK Phil dates back to the establishment of the Sino-British Orchestra in 1947. In 1957, the orchestra was officially registered as the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra 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.