

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 20 October 2026

**Music Director Tarmo Peltokoski and HK Phil
Embark on Landmark Four-Country, Eight-City European Tour**



[20 October 2026, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) will embark on a landmark four-country, eight-city European tour from 23 November to 6 December 2026, marking the first international tour of the orchestra under Music Director Tarmo Peltokoski. Joined by renowned pianist Martin Helmchen, Peltokoski and the HK Phil will bring Hong Kong's unique spirit to audiences across Europe, with debut performances at several of the continent's prestigious concert halls.

The tour showcases the musical partnership between Peltokoski and the HK Phil through a programme that combines orchestral grandeur, virtuosity, and contemporary creativity. At its heart are Wagner's *The Ring: An Orchestral Adventure*, arranged by Henk de Vlioger, and Bruckner's Symphony no. 4, *Romantic*. Helmchen joins the orchestra in Mozart's Piano Concerto no. 24 and Saint-Saëns's *The Carnival of the Animals*, in which Peltokoski takes on the dual role of pianist and conductor. Yao Chen's *Waltz of the Rolling Giants*, a new HK Phil commission inspired by the giant panda and written especially for the orchestra's China and European tours this season, will open the performances in Helsinki, Dortmund, Berlin, Hamburg and Vienna.

Tarmo Peltokoski said: "As the new Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, I am thrilled to lead the orchestra on this special European tour. It is a great honour to bring the HK Phil for the very first time to some of Europe's most prestigious concert halls, including the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Berliner Philharmonie, and the Wiener Konzerthaus. I am equally looking forward to our performance at Musiikkitalo in Helsinki, my home country. Together with our wonderful soloist Martin Helmchen, we will present diverse programmes featuring works that are especially close to my heart. Our shared experiences on and off the

stage strengthen our bond and bring profound depth to our music-making. My heartfelt gratitude goes to our international team and our sponsors who have made this tour across eight European cities possible."

This tour comes by invitation from some of the world's most distinguished presenters and iconic concert halls. The tour itinerary is as follows:

- **Barcelona, Spain:** Palau de la Música Catalana | 23 November (Presented by Fundació Orfeó Català-Palau de la Música)
- **Hanover, Germany:** Hannover Congress Centrum | 25 November (Presented by Dorn Music GmbH & Co. KG)
- **Helsinki, Finland:** Musiikkitalo | 28 November (Presented by Dorn Music GmbH & Co. KG)
- **Munich, Germany:** Herkulesaal der Residenz München | 30 November (Presented by Live Nation GmbH)
- **Dortmund, Germany:** Konzerthaus Dortmund | 2 December (Presented by Konzerthaus Dortmund GmbH)
- **Berlin, Germany:** Berliner Philharmonie | 3 December (Presented by Live Nation GmbH)
- **Hamburg, Germany:** Elbphilharmonie | 5 December – SOLD OUT (Presented by HamburgMusik gGmbH)
- **Vienna, Austria:** Wiener Konzerthaus | 6 December (Presented by Wiener Konzerthausgesellschaft)

The tour highlight in Dortmund carries special significance, as Peltokoski continues his three-year tenure as "Exklusivkünstler" at Konzerthaus Dortmund — a residency that launched in the 2025/26 season.

This European journey also follows a historic recording milestone: the HK Phil released its debut album on Deutsche Grammophon in March 2026, featuring Richard Wagner's *The Ring: An Orchestral Adventure* (arranged by Henk de Vlieger) under Peltokoski's baton. Marking a new chapter in the orchestra's international recording profile, European audiences will have the opportunity to hear this monumental work performed live by the orchestra and conductor.

Adding further momentum to this international moment, Peltokoski was recently announced to make his debut at the Bayreuther Festspiele in July/August 2027 with a new production of *Lohengrin* — making him the youngest conductor in history to ever take the podium at the Wagnerian festival.

The performances in Dortmund, Berlin, Hamburg, and Vienna are designated as a 2026 China National Arts Fund Supported Project, supported by Lottery Public Welfare Funds – China Welfare Lottery and China Sports Lottery. The European tour is also sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Berlin, Brussels, and London of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Air China is the Official Airline Partner of HK Phil's European Tour 2026.

Prior to the European tour, Hong Kong audiences can experience Mozart's Piano Concerto no. 24 and Bruckner's Symphony no. 4 performed by Helmchen and the HK Phil under the baton of Peltokoski on 17 & 18 November 2026 (Tue & Wed) at 7:30pm in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$880, \$700, \$520, \$380 are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Artists

Tarmo Peltokoski, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

In the 2026/27 season, Finnish conductor Tarmo Peltokoski begins his tenure as Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, having served as Music Director Designate in the preceding season. He also serves as Music Director of the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse as well as Principal Guest Conductor of the Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest. He is continuing his three-year residency as “Exklusivkünstler” at Konzerthaus Dortmund, which began in the 2025/26 season. He has been Principal Guest Conductor of The Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen since 2022. Highlights of the 2026/27 season include his highly anticipated debut at the Bayreuther Festspiele with a new production of *Lohengrin* (July/August 2027) as well as a new production of Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte*, which opened the 2026/27 season at Zurich Opera.

Martin Helmchen, piano [\[full description\]](#)

German pianist Martin Helmchen has been performing on the world’s most prestigious stages for two decades and is one of the most sought-after pianists of today. His originality and intensity of interpretation, which he presents with impressive tonal sensitivity and technical finesse, sets him apart as a musician. In 2020 he was honoured with the prestigious Gramophone Classical Music Award. Martin Helmchen has embarked on a complete Schubert sonata recording cycle, with Volume 1 released in October 2025. *The Times* commented: “Martin Helmchen has proved himself technically brilliant, unfailingly sensitive, thoughtful and completely at the music’s service... Helmchen’s blissful concentration of strength, poetry, and poise. Volume 2 of this series can’t come soon enough.”

Tarmo Peltokoski Conducts Bruckner 4

17 & 18 | 11 | 2026

TUE & WED 7:30PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$880 \$700 \$520 \$380

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Tarmo Peltokoski](#)

conductor

[Martin Helmchen](#)

piano

Programme

MOZART

Piano Concerto no. 24 in C minor, K. 491

BRUCKNER

Symphony no. 4 in E flat major, WAB 104, *Romantic*

HK Phil European Tour

Barcelona

23 | 11 | 2026

MON 8PM

Palau de la Música Catalana, Barcelona, Spain

€90 €70 €45 €30 €18

https://entrades.palaumusica.cat/selection/event/date?lang=en&productId=10229743516975&gl=1*5eamob* up*MQ..* ga*MTI3Njc1MDE2NS4xNzc5MTgwNjUy* ga_Z4CD70ZJNJ*czE3NzkxODA2NTEkbzEkZzAkDE3NzkxODA2NTEkajYwJGwwJGgw* ga_5KHV5X2C65*czE3NzkxODA2NTEkbzEkZzAkDE3NzkxODA2NTEkajYwJGwwJGgw

Programme

MOZART

Piano Concerto no. 24 in C minor, K. 491

BRUCKNER

Symphony no. 4 in E flat major, WAB 104, *Romantic*

Hanover

25 | 11 | 2026

WED 7:30PM

Kuppelsaal, Hannover Congress Centrum, Germany

€87 €73 €58 €42 €26

https://feverup.com/m/598772/en?srsId=AfmBOoqNw-6R33qOLqT4j41v_yh6A8c7IU9Lcd3bEjfxQGuoe9Sh3NjF

Programme

MOZART

Piano Concerto no. 24 in C minor, K. 491

BRUCKNER

Symphony no. 4 in E flat major, WAB 104, *Romantic*

Helsinki

28 | 11 | 2026

SAT 7PM

Musiikkitalo, Helsinki, Finland

€125 €92 €74 €51 €35

<https://musiikkitalo.fi/en/concerts-and-events/hong-kong-philharmonic-orchestra-tarmo-peltokoski-martin-helmchen-28-11-2026>

Programme

YAO Chen

Waltz of the Rolling Giants (HK Phil Commission)

SAINT-SAËNS

The Carnival of the Animals

WAGNER (arr. Henk DE VliegER)

The Ring: An Orchestral Adventure

Munich

30 | 11 | 2026

MON 8PM

Herkulesaal der Residenz München, Munich, Germany

€100.95 €84.85 €68.75 €51.50 €34.25

<https://www.livenation.de/en/event/tarmo-peltokoski-and-hong-kong-philharmonic-orchestra-m%c3%bcnchen-tickets-edp1672398>

Programme

MOZART

Piano Concerto no. 24 in C minor, K. 491

WAGNER (arr. Henk DE VliegER)

The Ring: An Orchestral Adventure

Dortmund

2 | 12 | 2026

WED 7:30PM

Konzerthaus Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany

€99 €89 €77 €61 €40 €20

<https://www.konzerthaus-dortmund.de/en/programm/02-12-2026-tarmo-peltokoski-hong-kong-philharmonic-orchestra>

Programme

YAO Chen

Waltz of the Rolling Giants (HK Phil Commission)

SAINT-SAËNS

The Carnival of the Animals

WAGNER (arr. Henk DE VliegER)

The Ring: An Orchestral Adventure

Berlin

3 | 12 | 2026

THU 8PM

Berliner Philharmonie, Berlin, Germany

€91.75 €74.50 €60.70 €44.60 €30.80

<https://www.livenation.de/en/event/tarmo-peltokoski-and-hong-kong-philharmonic-orchestra-berlin-tickets-edp1672401>

Programme

YAO Chen

Waltz of the Rolling Giants (HK Phil Commission)

SAINT-SAËNS

The Carnival of the Animals

WAGNER (arr. Henk DE VliegER)

The Ring: An Orchestral Adventure

Hamburg

5 | 12 | 2026

SAT 8PM

Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg, Germany

€115 €95 €65 €35 €15

Sold out

<https://www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/whats-on/hong-kong-philharmonic-orchestra-martin-helmchen-tarmo-peltokoski/28169>

Programme

YAO Chen

Waltz of the Rolling Giants (HK Phil Commission)

SAINT-SAËNS

The Carnival of the Animals

WAGNER (arr. Henk DE VliegER)

The Ring: An Orchestral Adventure

Vienna

6 | 12 | 2026

SUN 7:30PM

Wiener Konzerthaus, Vienna, Austria

€85 €79 €66 €56 €42 €29

<https://konzerthaus.at/en/program-and-tickets/hong-kong-philharmonic-orchestra-helmchen-peltokoski/63787>

Programme

YAO Chen

Waltz of the Rolling Giants (HK Phil Commission)

SAINT-SAËNS

The Carnival of the Animals

WAGNER (arr. Henk DE VliegER)

The Ring: An Orchestral Adventure

[Download](#) press images



Tarmo Peltokoski

Photo: Peter Rigaud



Martin Helmchen

Photo: Peter Rigaud



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo: Desmond Chan/HK Phil

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Tarmo Peltokoski
Principal Guest Conductor: Long Yu
Resident Conductor: Lio Kuokman, JP

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 starts his tenure as Music Director in the 2026/27 season. Currently, Long Yu serves as Principal Guest Conductor and Lio Kuokman is Resident Conductor.

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 releases its debut album on Deutsche Grammophon in March 2026, featuring Richard Wagner's *The Ring: An Orchestral Adventure* (arranged by Henk de Vlioger), conducted by Tarmo Peltokoski. This landmark collaboration with the world's most historic classical label marks a new chapter in the HK Phil's international recording profile.

The HK Phil has toured extensively across the Chinese Mainland. 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 the Chinese Mainland, performing in 22 cities across ten countries in its 50th anniversary. In the 2026/27 season, the orchestra will perform in Europe and the Chinese Mainland again.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Stéphane Denève, Christoph Eschenbach, Daniele Gatti, Daniel Harding, Pietari Inkinen, Paavo Järvi, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Vasily Petrenko, Emanuel Ax, Joshua Bell, Ning Feng, Mao Fujita, Jonas Kaufmann, Lang Lang, Leonidas Kavakos, Olivier Latry, Yo-Yo Ma, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Aristo Sham, 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.