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PRESS RELEASE
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Tarmo Peltokoski and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra The Inaugural Season, 2026/27



<https://go.hkphil.org/pc2627>
Download 2026/27 Season Brochure
Season Programmes at a Glance
Artist Photos & Season Launch Photos

[27 April 2026, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) announces the inaugural season of Music Director Tarmo Peltokoski. A total of 35 orchestral programmes have been unveiled for 2026/27, showcasing an international roster of distinguished artists and ensembles.

Tarmo Peltokoski stated: "I am honoured and thrilled to embark on my first season as Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, and I warmly encourage you to join us on this exciting journey. This season, I will lead six programmes featuring masterpieces that are especially close to my heart. My inaugural concert will feature Mahler's Eighth Symphony, a piece reserved for the most special and rare occasions. This landmark performance for Hong Kong not only marks the HK Phil's premiere of the work but also completes our long-awaited exploration of all of Mahler's symphonies. In addition to our concerts at home, we are bringing the distinctive sound of the HK Phil to audiences around the globe through our tours and recordings. I look forward to the exhilarating musical journey that lies ahead and invite each of you to join us in the concert hall."

Highlights of the HK Phil's 2026/27 season include:

- Finnish Maestro Tarmo Peltokoski takes the helm, leading six programmes including HK Phil's first performances of Mahler Symphony no. 8.
- Peltokoski leads the orchestra on a four-country, eight-city European tour, making debuts at the Berliner Philharmonie, Elbphilharmonie, Wiener Konzerthaus, and Helsinki's Musiikkitalo. Additionally, the HK Phil will tour the Chinese Mainland with performances in Beijing, Shanghai and the Greater Bay Area.

- Some of the biggest names in classical music will appear with the HK Phil for the first time, including conductor Gustavo Dudamel and tenor Juan Diego Flórez, alongside returning maestros and soloists such as Manfred Honeck, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, James Ehnes, Augustin Hadelich, and Yo-Yo Ma. Critically acclaimed pianists Igor Levit, Eric Lu and Martin Helmchen will also make their HK Phil debuts.
- The season highlights the exceptional talent within the orchestra, including Concertmaster Jing Wang and other HK Phil Principals, together with celebrated Hong Kong artists Joyce Cheung, Louise Kwong, Gordon Lee, Aristo Sham, the HK Phil Chorus and The Hong Kong Children's Choir.
- New works by Yao Chen and Leon Ko commissioned by HK Phil will receive their world premieres.
- Dedicated programmes commemorate the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's death and 130th anniversary of Brahms's death.
- HK Phil continues its commitment to inclusivity and accessibility through a wide range of initiatives, including *Swire Symphony Under The Stars*, the "Swire Music for Everyone" series, the Jockey Club TUTTI programme, community concerts, the "We Pick You Up!" campaign, as well as education programmes and school visits.

Tarmo Peltokoski – Inaugural Season as Music Director

In his inaugural season as Music Director of the HK Phil, Tarmo Peltokoski leads six dynamic programmes, featuring monumental symphonies, acclaimed guest artists, and the orchestra's signature annual outdoor mega-concert.

- Peltokoski launches his tenure with the HK Phil premiere of Mahler's colossal Symphony no. 8, completing the orchestra's journey through all of Mahler's symphonies. This landmark performance features a stellar international and local cast, including soloists Jacquelyn Wagner, Chen Reiss, Louise Kwong, Catriona Morison, Sasha Cooke, Tuomas Katajala, Rinalds Kandalincevs, and Shenyang. They will be joined by a combined choir featuring the HK Phil Chorus, London Philharmonic Choir, and The Hong Kong Children's Choir (7 & 8 November 2026).
- He conducts the HK Phil's signature annual free outdoor mega-event, *Swire Symphony Under The Stars*, at Central Harbourfront on 13 November 2026. Registration details will be announced soon.
- Serving as a preview for the orchestra's upcoming European tour, the HK Phil presents Bruckner's Symphony no. 4, *Romantic*, alongside Mozart's Piano Concerto no. 24, performed by acclaimed German pianist Martin Helmchen (17 & 18 November 2026).
- Peltokoski leads Bruckner's Symphony no. 7, coupled with Richard Strauss's *Vier letzte Lieder*, featuring celebrated soprano Asmik Grigorian (14 & 15 January 2027).
- He conducts Vaughan Williams's Symphony no. 4 and Esa-Pekka Salonen's Cello Concerto, with Finnish cellist Senja Rummukainen. Wagner's *Lohengrin*: Prelude opens the programme (26 & 27 March 2027).
- Together with soloists Louise Kwong and Wiebke Lehmkuhl, the HK Phil and the HK Phil Chorus, join forces for Mahler's Second Symphony, *Resurrection*. The concerts open with Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*: Prelude (2 & 3 April 2027).
- Peltokoski also leads the Swire Community Concert on 28 March 2027. Registration details will be announced soon.

Tour to Europe

Music Director Tarmo Peltokoski will lead the HK Phil on an extensive four-country, eight-city European tour from 23 November to 6 December 2026. The tour will take the orchestra across Spain, Germany, Finland, and Austria, marking the HK Phil's debut in several of Europe's most prestigious concert halls.

Performances will be held in Barcelona (Palau de la Música Catalana), Hannover (Kuppelsaal), Helsinki (Musiikkitalo), Munich (Herkulesaal), Dortmund (Konzerthaus), Berlin (Berliner Philharmonie), Hamburg (Elbphilharmonie), and Vienna (Wiener Konzerthaus).

The repertoire will feature Wagner's *The Ring: An Orchestral Adventure* (arranged by Henk de Vlieger) and Bruckner's Symphony no. 4. Pianist Martin Helmchen will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto no. 24, and Saint-Saëns's *The Carnival of the Animals*, with Peltokoski also joining as pianist/conductor. Concerts will further include the newly commissioned *Waltz of the Rolling Giants* by Yao Chen, written especially for the orchestra's China and European tours in the 2026/27 season.

The European tour is sponsored by China National Arts Fund.

Tours to China – Beijing and Guangzhou

Music Director Tarmo Peltokoski will lead the HK Phil on tours to the Chinese Mainland in early 2027, with performances scheduled in Guangzhou and Beijing.

On 16 January 2027, Peltokoski will conduct Bruckner's Symphony no. 7 and Richard Strauss's *Vier letzte Lieder*, featuring celebrated soprano Asmik Grigorian, at the Xinghai Concert Hall in Guangzhou.

Marking Peltokoski's Beijing debut, two programmes will then be presented at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) from 8 to 10 April 2027. The first two evenings feature Mahler's Symphony no. 2, *Resurrection*, with soloists Louise Kwong and Wiebke Lehmkuhl, joined by the China NCPA Orchestra and Chorus, opening with Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde: Prelude*. On the third evening, Peltokoski conducts Vaughan Williams's Symphony no. 4 and Esa-Pekka Salonen's Cello Concerto, with Finnish cellist Senja Rummukainen. This programme begins with Wagner's *Lohengrin: Prelude*.

International Line-up of Stellar Artists

- Manfred Honeck returns to open the new season with Beethoven's *Pastoral* Symphony, paired with his own and Tomáš Ille's arrangement of Strauss's *Elektra* Suite (16 & 17 September 2026).
- One of opera's most charismatic stars, Juan Diego Flórez makes his Hong Kong debut. Having captivated audiences at The Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, the Royal Opera House, and beyond. In the concert, he performs arias by Rossini, Donizetti, Massenet, Verdi, among others. The concert is exclusively title sponsored by Rolex (22 October 2026).
- Russian conductor and pianist Maxim Emelyanychev makes his HK Phil debut with Mozart's Piano Concerto no. 25. The programme opens with Rachmaninov's *The Rock* and concludes with selections from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*. These are Swire Maestro Series concerts (18 & 19 December 2026).
- Cello master Yo-Yo Ma returns to perform Elgar's Cello Concerto. Conducted by Long Yu, HK Phil Principal Guest Conductor, the programme also includes Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance* March no. 1, Vaughan Williams's *English Folk Song Suite*, and Chen Qigang's *Instant d'un Opéra de Pékin*. The concert is exclusively title sponsored by the Standard Chartered Global Private Bank (25 January 2027).

- Grammy Award-winner James Ehnes returns with Barber's Violin Concerto, paired with Mahler's Fifth Symphony conducted by Grammy Award-winning Italian conductor Fabio Luisi in his HK Phil debut. These are Swire Maestro Series concerts (23 & 24 April 2027).
- Grammy Award-winning violinist and Opus Klassik "Instrumentalist of the Year" Augustin Hadelich returns with Paganini's Violin Concerto no. 4. Roberto González-Monjas brings John Williams's *Olympic Fanfare and Theme* and Rachmaninov's Third Symphony (21 & 22 May 2027).
- Celebrating the brilliance of 18th century classical music, Jean-Christophe Spinosi conducts a programme featuring Bach's Brandenburg Concerto no. 2, Vivaldi's Bassoon Concerto in A minor, RV 498, Handel's *Water Music* selections, and Mozart's Symphony no. 41, *Jupiter*. Spotighting HK Phil musicians Concertmaster Jing Wang, Principal Flute Megan Sterling, Principal Oboe Michael Wilson, Principal Bassoon Benjamin Moermond, and Principal Trumpet Nitiphum Bamrungbanthum, this programme is title sponsored by BNP Paribas Wealth Management and part of the French May Arts Festival (11 & 12 June 2027).
- The HK Phil's season finale opens with Finnish composer Outi Tarkiainen's *Midnight Sun Variations*. Igor Levit performs Prokofiev's Second Piano Concerto in his HK Phil debut, and Jukka-Pekka Saraste returns to close the season with Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony (18 & 19 June 2027).
- HK Phil Principal Guest Conductor Long Yu leads two special concerts in preparation for the orchestra's appearance at Shanghai's Music in the Summer Air (MISA) Festival. On 24 June 2027, he conducts Shostakovich's Symphony no. 7. On 3 July 2027, the programme features Aristo Sham, winner of the 2025 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, performing the *Yellow River* Piano Concerto. HK Phil Concertmaster Jing Wang solos in Zhao Jiping's First Violin Concerto, a work that blends Western concerto form with Chinese melodic idioms. The concert opens with Sibelius's *Finlandia* and closes with Smetana's *Má vlast: The Moldau* (3 July 2027).

Gustavo Dudamel with HK Phil

Gustavo Dudamel, Music and Artistic Director of the New York Philharmonic beginning in the 2026/27 season, marks his HK Phil debut with three concerts in the Jockey Club Masters Series under the Jockey Club TUTTI Programme, exclusively sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

On 11 February 2027, Dudamel will lead the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela and the Coro de Manos Blancas in a performance of Beethoven's *Fidelio*, celebrating the strength of the human spirit.

The series continues on 13 February 2027 with Beethoven's Symphony no. 9, as Dudamel conducts the HK Phil Orchestra and Chorus in a performance of this iconic work, embodying the timeless vision of universal brotherhood.

Dudamel's week concludes on 14 February 2027 with a Valentine's Day programme built around the theme of "Romeo and Juliet" in music. In this concert, young musicians from the Jockey Club TUTTI Programme perform side by side with the HK Phil and the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela creating an inspiring exchange.

Beethoven and Brahms

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of Beethoven and 130th anniversary of Brahms's death, the HK Phil presents a series of programmes honouring these two towering figures of classical music.

- Zhang Haochen, Van Cliburn Gold Medal winner and Avery Fisher Prize recipient, returns to perform Brahms's Piano concertos nos. 1 & 2, launching the Salute to Brahms series. Each concert opens with one of Brahms's early orchestral works, Serenade no. 1 & no. 2, conducted by Christoph Altstaedt (30 April & 1 May 2027).
- The Brahms series continues with two chamber concerts on 2 and 3 May 2027, in collaboration with HKU MUSE and Tai Kwun, respectively.
- Kevin Zhu, first prize winner of the Paganini International Violin Competition, performs Brahms's Violin Concerto. Christoph Altstaedt conducts with The HK Phil Chorus joining for Brahms choral masterpieces *Nänie* and *Schicksalslied* (6 May 2027).
- The HK Phil recreates the historic concert on which Beethoven unveiled his Ninth Symphony to the world in 1824. Framed by the jubilant Consecration of the House Overture and crowned by the revolutionary Ode to Joy, the programme also includes three sections from Missa Solemnis, presented as they were that historic night. James Sherlock conducts with soloists Lucy Crowe, Jess Dandy, Thomas Atkins, and William Thomas, alongside the HK Phil Chorus and HKU Chamber Singers. HKU Professor Daniel Chua will introduce the concerts, co-presented by HKU MUSE (6 & 7 March 2027).
- International Tchaikovsky Competition Silver Medallist George Li joins leader Glenn Christensen and the orchestra for another all-Beethoven programme featuring *The Creatures of Prometheus* Overture, Piano Concerto no. 1, and Symphony no. 1. These are Swire Denim Series concerts (28 & 29 May 2027).

Piano Masters

- International Chopin Competition Gold Medallist Eric Lu makes his HK Phil debut with Chopin's Concerto no. 1. HK Phil Resident Conductor Lio Kuokman leads Stravinsky's *Firebird* Suite, and the evening opens with Yao Chen's new work *Waltz of the Rolling Giants* (9 September 2026).
- In the National Day concert, Zitong Wang, Third Prize Winner of the International Chopin Piano Competition, makes her HK Phil debut with Prokofiev's Piano Concerto no. 3. Under the baton of Yuan Ding, Principal Resident Conductor of China National Opera House, the programme opens with Yao Chen's *Garden: Unearthing the Way Home*. Rachmaninov's First Symphony concludes the evening. The concert is sponsored by CMB Wing Lung Bank (24 September 2026).
- In the Belt and Road concert, Zitong Wang performs Chopin's Andante spianato et Grande Polonaise brillante. The concert opens with Tchaikovsky's *Marche slave*, Yao Chen's *Garden: Unearthing the Way Home* follows, before culminating in Rachmaninov's First Symphony. Conducted by Yuan Ding, this concert is title sponsored by Swire and supported by the Belt and Road Office of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau. It is presented as part of the Asia+ Festival (26 September 2026).
- Japanese pianist Nobuyuki Tsujii, who rose to international prominence after winning the gold medal at the 2009 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, returns with Shostakovich's Second Concerto. Finnish conductor Hannu Lintu leads Rautavaara's *Angel of Light* and Scriabin's *Le Poème de l'extase* (14 & 15 May 2027).

Holiday, Family and Pops

- Embark on a musical journey from Hans Zimmer's *Gladiator* score to Wagner's *Die Walküre*, via the jazzy swing of Artie Shaw's Clarinet Concerto with HK Phil's Principal Clarinet Andrew Simon. The HK Phil's trombone section – Jarod Vermette, Christian Goldsmith, Kevin Thompson, and Aaron Albert – performs Koetsier's Concertino for 4 Trombones and Strings (1st movement). This Swire Denim Series concert is conducted by Lio Kuokman (27 & 28 August 2026).
- The highly anticipated BBC movie-in-concert returns. *Planet Earth III* brings the wonders of our planet to the stage with breathtaking footage from the acclaimed BBC Studios series, accompanied by the powerful score from Oscar winner Hans Zimmer, Jacob Shea, and Sara Barone, performed by the HK Phil under Vanessa Scammell with vocalist Michelle John and presenter George Lacey (4 & 5 September 2026).
- Celebrate the festive season with acclaimed award-winning pianist, composer, and arranger Joyce Cheung, together with the HK Phil and The Hong Kong Children's Choir, conducted by Lio Kuokman. This programme blends orchestral colours with Cheung's artistry, showcasing her original works alongside fresh arrangements of timeless Christmas classics (22 & 23 December 2026).
- The New Year concert features a vibrant programme, including J Strauss II's *Wein, Weib und Gesang*, Falla's *Siete canciones populares españolas*, Bizet's *Carmen*, Haydn's *Farewell Symphony*, and Ravel's *Boléro*. Award-winning Conductor Emmanuel Tjeknavorian and mezzo-soprano Fleur Barron will make their HK Phil debuts. This programme is exclusively title sponsored by China Life (Overseas) (29 & 30 December 2026).
- Emmanuel Tjeknavorian returns the following week with Vincent Dubois for two masterworks for the organ: Richard Strauss's *Festliches Präludium* and Saint-Saëns's Third Symphony. Tjeknavorian also presents his own suite of music from Khachaturian's *Gayane*, showcasing high-octane Armenian rhythms. This is a Swire Denim Series concert (6 January 2027).
- To celebrate birthdays of two great American composers, Philip Glass and John Adams, Concertmaster Jing Wang takes centre stage in Glass's *The American Four Seasons*, while Lio Kuokman leads the orchestra in Adams's *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* and the monumental *Harmonielehre* (29 January 2027).
- Ring in the Chinese New Year with the World Premiere of Leon Ko's *Playing With Air*, commissioned by the HK Phil and written for World Harmonica Festival champion Gordon Lee. Conductor Qian Junping leads a jubilant programme of Chinese classics and iconic Hong Kong film music alongside orchestral showpieces by Otto Nicolai, Tan Dun, George Enescu and Li Juanzhi (3 February 2027).
- "Piano vs Orchestra", conceived and performed by Hyung-ki Joo, explores the evolution of the piano's role in the repertoire. Through a combination of performance, storytelling, and humour, Joo takes audiences on a journey through musical history, illustrating how composers have turned the piano into both a rival and an ally to the orchestra. These Swire Family Series concerts are conducted by Benjamin Northey (16 & 17 April 2027).

Chengdu and Shanghai Tours

- Lio Kuokman will lead the HK Phil in Chengdu on 12 September 2026, as part of the 32nd “Autumn in Chengdu” International Music Season. Joined by award-winning pianist Eric Lu, the programme opens with Yao Chen’s *Waltz of the Rolling Giants*, followed by Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 1, and concludes with Stravinsky’s *The Firebird Suite*.
- Long Yu leads the orchestra at the 2027 “Music in the Summer Air” Festival in Shanghai (7 to 9 July 2027). The first concert features pianist Aristo Sham performing the *Yellow River* Piano Concerto and Jing Wang as the soloist in Zhao Jiping’s First Violin Concerto, alongside Sibelius’s *Finlandia* and Smetana’s *Má vlast: The Moldau*. Musicians from the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra will share the stage with the HK Phil. Long Yu will also conduct Shostakovich’s Symphony no. 7. In addition, Aristo Sham will join musicians from the HK Phil and the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra for a chamber music concert.

Phil the Bay

Marking the 30th anniversary of Hong Kong’s return to the Motherland, the HK Phil proudly launches the “Phil the Bay” tour series. Through symphonic and chamber performances, alongside a variety of artistic events, HK Phil extends its musical presence to cities including Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan and Dongguan, with plans to expand and connect regularly with more communities across the region in the future. With the “Phil the Bay” series, the orchestra aims to enrich lives across the Bay Area with world-class music, nurture hearts with exceptional artistry, and contribute to building a culturally vibrant and humanistic Greater Bay Area.

In the 2026/27 season, HK Phil will return twice to the Xinghai Concert Hall in Guangzhou (24 October 2026 and 16 January 2027) and continue to make appearances at the Shenzhen Concert Hall (8 & 9 May 2027). The upcoming New Year Concert will not only be presented again in Shenzhen (3 January 2027), but will also make its debut in Dongguan (2 January 2027).

In addition, the HK Phil musicians will embark on chamber tours in October 2026 and January 2027, visiting major cities across the Greater Bay Area including Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan, Dongguan and Zhuhai. Throughout the season, the HK Phil aims to have a total of six orchestral concerts and six chamber performances in the Greater Bay Area, and looks forward to having close engagement with audiences in the region.

Chamber Music Concerts

The HK Phil continues to present exciting chamber music concerts in Hong Kong, each programme built around unique themes and showcasing a diverse range of composers and musical styles. As part of the Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo, the HK Phil and WestK Performing Arts will co-present a chamber concert at the Xiqu Centre Tea House Theatre, West Kowloon Cultural District on 12 October 2026. Celebrating the birthdays of Philip Glass & John Adams, a chamber concert will be held on 1 March 2027 in collaboration with Tai Kwun. The Brahms series features two chamber concerts on 2 and 3 May 2027 in collaboration with HKU MUSE and Tai Kwun, respectively.

Subscription Period (14 May – 18 June 2026)

For the 2026/27 season, the HK Phil is delighted to re-launch the subscription plan. Create your own series by picking at least three of your favourite programmes. The more you order, the more you save. Subscribers are eligible for up to 30% discount. Discounts on select series are up to 35% off. Please visit <https://sub.hkphil.org> for details. Students, seniors, disabled and CSSA recipients enjoy 50% off for both subscription and single-ticket purchases.

<u>Discount for Free Choice Programmes</u>		
No. of Programmes	3–5	≥ 6
Discount	15%	30%

The 2026/27 HK Phil subscription booking period will have two phases:

- Club Bravo Gold members and 2025/26 subscribers can enjoy the best savings and secure desired seats from 14 May 10:00am to 1 June 11:59pm, 2026;
- Subscription booking for the upcoming 2026/27 season opens to the public, including all Club Bravo members, from 2 June 10:00am to 18 June 11:59pm, 2026.

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Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

Subscription Enquiries:

Please call 2721 2332 / 2721 0132 (10am – 6pm, Monday to Friday) or email us at subscriptions@hkphil.org.

Counter Sales Open

6 August 2026 (Thu) 10am

Education and Outreach Initiatives of the HK Phil

Community Concerts

The HK Phil continues its commitment to increasing access to classical music through a series of free community concerts. Sponsored by The Tung Foundation, the first two community concerts in 2026/27 season will be held on 15 & 16 October 2026. Collaborating with The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, another two community concerts will be held on 19 & 20 February 2027. Additionally, Swire Community Concert is scheduled for 28 March 2027. Stay tuned for registration details.

Swire Music for Everyone

The “Swire Music for Everyone” open rehearsal series provides a chance to experience the HK Phil in action as they prepare for a concert. These free events offer a rare glimpse into the rehearsal process, where conductor and musicians shape the music together in real time. Each session offers a unique

opportunity to witness the dynamic collaboration between the conductor and the orchestra. It's an informal way to deepen the appreciation for orchestral performance.

Jockey Club TUTTI Programme

The Jockey Club TUTTI Programme (Tuning Up Talents, Transforming Individuals) is the HK Phil's flagship education initiative, exclusively supported by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. Launched in the 2024/25 season, this three-year programme is designed to nurture local music talents through engagements with both international and local artists. Highlights include the "Jockey Club Masters Series" concerts, which bring world-renowned maestros to Hong Kong, along with comprehensive education programmes and interactive outreach activities. All education and school events are free, ensuring high-quality musical experiences are accessible to all students, particularly those underprivileged.

Jockey Club TUTTI Programme is exclusively sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

JC Project MuSE

JC Project MuSE is a school-based music (Mu) and sports (S) education (E) programme, initiated and funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. It offers free, high-quality and tailored music and sports programmes to primary school children in the most impoverished areas of Hong Kong. It aims to develop children's artistic and physical literacy and to enhance their positive whole-person development, emotional well-being and academic advancement, thereby endowing them with the best opportunities for future growth and development. JC Project MuSE is co-organised by Hong Kong Baptist University, SF&OC Sports Legacy, The Education University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.

JC Project MuSE is initiated and funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

The Young Audience Scheme and Community Concerts

The Young Audience Scheme aims to encourage local full-time students aged 6–25 to attend concerts and experience the orchestral repertoire, with a hope to boost their interest in classical music. Membership offers ticket discounts, rewards, and a variety of activities, including open rehearsals and musical games. Free Community Concerts bring world-class orchestral music to communities in different districts each year. For more information, please visit hkphil.org/yas.

The Young Audience Scheme and Community Concerts are sponsored by The Tung Foundation

We Pick You Up!

The HK Phil launched "We Pick You Up!" education and outreach initiative in the 2025/26 season, which aims to broaden access to the joy of music for young audiences across the city.

The programme addresses primary barriers that hinder young students from attending concerts – cost, distance, and context – by providing dedicated transportation and free concert tickets to them. Through this initiative, students aged 6–12, along with their families, are taken to the Hong Kong Cultural Centre on specially wrapped "We Pick You Up!" buses to attend four live performances by the HK Phil. The programme also offers students an opportunity to step out of the classroom and explore Hong Kong's vibrant cultural landscape with their families.

The 2026/27 season "We Pick You Up!" education and outreach programme is sponsored by the China Merchants Foundation.

Connect with Us

The HK Phil's informative website hkphil.org offers the latest concert and ticketing information. Music lovers can also subscribe our E-news subscription (www.hkphil.org/form/enews), or stay connected on the HK Phil's social media platforms, including Facebook (www.facebook.com/HKPhil), Instagram (www.instagram.com/hkphilharmonic/), LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/company/the-hong-kong-philharmonic-society-ltd), RedNote (<https://go.hkphil.org/xiaohongshu>), 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:



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

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The Chair Endowment for Principal Cello Richard Bamping is sponsored by

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- Free Choice Programme – select three or more concerts to create your own season package, and enjoy a discount of up to 30%. Discounts on select series are up to 35% off
- Subscribers' benefits include best savings, best available seats and flexible ticketing services.
- Season Subscription Booking Deadline: 18 June 2026 (Thursday)
- URBIX public ticket sales start from 6 August 2026 (Thursday)

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Tarmo Peltokoski

Music Director / Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (from the 2026/27 season)
Conductor Laureate / The Latvian National Symphony Orchestra
Principal Guest Conductor / The Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen
Principal Guest Conductor / Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest
Music Director / Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse
Exklusivkünstler / Konzerthaus Dortmund

“A talent of a century”
– Tagesspiegel

“Disconcerting, breathtaking, tearjerkingly beautiful. Even writing about it brings back goosebumps. How he did it is a mystery but the most beautiful concert of the year was played in Rotterdam. Tarmo Peltokoski. Write that name down.”
– NRC Rotterdam

“the Finnish conducting miracle”
– Tagesspiegel

“Watch out- here comes a genius!... Peltokoski not only has phenomenal technique, but an energy, a musical instinct, a stylistic and expressive clarity as well as fiery dynamics, all of which leave one speechless.”
– Diapason Magazine, Rémy Louis

In season 2025/26 Finnish conductor Tarmo Peltokoski will start his tenure as Music Director of the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse after already serving as Music Director Designate in season 2024/25. He was awarded the title “Principal Guest Conductor” of The Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen in January 2022, the first conductor to hold this position in the orchestra’s history. In May 2022, Peltokoski was named Music and Artistic Director of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra. He started his term in the 22/23 season and after three years he became conductor laureate. He was subsequently named Principal Guest Conductor of the Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest. Peltokoski will become the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra’s Music Director beginning in the 2026/27 season, after serving as Music Director Designate in 2025/26. Furthermore, Tarmo Peltokoski begins his 3 year residency as “Exklusivkünstler” at Konzerthaus Dortmund in season 2025/26.

In recent seasons he made debuts with Orchestra dell’Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony, NHK Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Göteborgs Symfoniker as well as SWR Symphonieorchester at Pfingstfestspiele Baden-Baden, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and Bayerisches Staatsorchester.

Summer festival debuts include Rheingau Musik Festival, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, Beethovenfest Bonn, the Verbier Festival, Musikfest Bremen and Festival de Música y Danza Granada. In August 2022 at the age of 22, he completed his first Wagner *Ring* cycle at the Eurajoki Bel Canto Festival. Tarmo Peltokoski returned to Eurajoki Bel Canto Festival to conduct *Tristan und Isolde* in April 2023. In summer 2023 he conducted *Siegfried* with the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra and *Don Giovanni* at the Finnish National Opera in October 2023.

In August 2024, he conducted Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* in Riga, followed by his BBC Proms debut at the Royal Albert Hall in September 2024 with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Later that season, he appeared with the Filarmonica della Scala, Philharmonia Zürich and conducted Wagner's *Fliegender Holländer* in Luxembourg and Brussels as well as *Parsifal* in Riga.

Highlights of the 2025/26 season include Wagner opera productions of *Tristan und Isolde* (Dutch National Opera, February 2026), and his debut at Deutsche Oper Berlin with *Parsifal* (April 2026). The season also includes *Die Zauberflöte* with The Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen in performances at Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Konzerthaus Dortmund, Bremen and Enescu Festival in Bucharest.

He has worked with soloists including Yuja Wang, Asmik Grigorian, Matthias Goerne, Julia Fischer, Golda Schultz, Martin Fröst, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Janine Jansen, Martin Helmchen, Leonidas Kavakos, Camilla Nylund and Sol Gabetta.

Tarmo Peltokoski began his studies with professor emeritus Jorma Panula at the age of 14 and studied with Sakari Oramo at the Sibelius Academy. He has also been taught by Hannu Lintu, Jukka-Pekka Saraste and Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Also an acclaimed pianist, he studied piano at the Sibelius Academy with Antti Hotti. His piano playing has been awarded at many competitions and he has appeared as a soloist with all major Finnish orchestras.

In October 2023 Tarmo Peltokoski signed an exclusive recording contract with Deutsche Grammophon. His debut album was released in May 2024. In March 2026, he released a new recording of *The Ring – An Orchestral Adventure* with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.

In 2022 he received the Lotto Prize at Rheingau Musik Festival and in 2023 he received the OPUS Klassik for his recording with The Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen.

In addition Tarmo Peltokoski has also studied composing and arranging, and especially enjoys music comedy and improvisation.

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 Vlieger), 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, Daniel 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.