

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Date: 14 June 2019

**Jazz the Week Up with Latin American Music from Michel Camilo and Ernest Martinez Izquierdo**  
**Swire Denim Series: Jazz with Michel Camilo (14 & 15 June)**

[14 June 2019, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is excited to have Dominican jazz pianist and composer [Michel Camilo](#) and his Grammy-award winning partner, conductor [Ernest Martinez Izquierdo](#), bringing a jazzy evening to the Hong Kong audience. In this Latin jazz concert, Michel Camilo's Piano Concerto no.1 will be presented in Hong Kong for the first time together with Gershwin's all-time favourite *Rhapsody in Blue* at the **Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall on 14 & 15 June**.

Underpinning the evening is the Hong Kong premiere of Michel Camilo's Piano Concerto no.1. The three-part fantasia showcases Camilo's superhuman keyboard virtuosity with a tropical tint. The work encompasses traditions from his own background while echoing early 20<sup>th</sup> composers such as Stravinsky and Copland.

Argentinean composer Ginastera is acclaimed for infusing national elements with modernism. Inspired by the life on the ranches in Argentina, the *Estancia* Suite has colourful orchestration and bold harmonies. Combined with a large complement of percussion instruments, conductor Ernest Martinez Izquierdo invites you on a dancing journey to Argentina.

**"While Camilo plays 'the ink' of Gershwin's scores [*Rhapsody in Blue*], he embellishes the works with grooves and accents."**

--- *Billboard*

The night will be concluded by the pulsating *Rhapsody in Blue*, Gershwin's most popular concert work. With the trademark glissando opening by the clarinet, be ready to swing with Camilo's groovy playing.

**Swire Denim Series: Jazz with Michel Camilo** will be held on **14 & 15 Jun (Fri & Sat), 8PM** at the **Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall**. Tickets priced: HK\$480 \$380 \$280 \$220 are available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](http://hkphil.org).

**\*Note: Change of programme**

Change of Programme: The scheduled first piece of the programme, Arturo Márquez's Danzón no. 2, will not be performed. The remaining repertoires remain unchanged. The concert will now open with Michel Camilo's Piano Concerto no. 1, followed by an intermission. Please note latecomers will only be admitted during the intermission, and the audience is advised to allow enough time to arrive at Hong Kong City Hall in Central.

## Artists

### **Ernest Martínez Izquierdo, conductor** [\[full biography\]](#)

Born in Barcelona (1962), Ernest Martínez Izquierdo is Honorary Conductor of the Navarre Symphony Orchestra of Pamplona and Principal Guest Conductor of the ensemble Barcelona 216. Following his studies in Barcelona and Paris, he began his conducting career in 1985, when he founded the ensemble "Barcelona 216", specialized in contemporary music with which he has performed in the most prestigious international festivals. In 1988 he was appointed Assistant Director of the Spanish National Orchestra and in 1989 Pierre Boulez invited him to be his Assistant in the Ensemble Intercontemporain. From 1997 to 2013 he was Music Director of the Navarre Symphony Orchestra and from 2002 to 2006 Music Director of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, continuing to serve as Principal Guest Conductor until 2009.

### **Michel Camilo, jazz piano** [\[full biography\]](#)

Michel Camilo was born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He studied for 13 years at the National Conservatory, earning a degree of *Professorship in Music*. At the age of 16 he became the youngest member of the National Symphony Orchestra of the DR. He moved to New York in 1979 to continue his studies at Mannes and The Juilliard School of Music. Since his 1985 Carnegie Hall debut, he has become a prominent figure performing regularly at festivals and concert venues throughout the United States, Europe, Japan, Asia, Middle East, South America and the Caribbean.

## SWIRE DENIM SERIES: JAZZ WITH MICHEL CAMILO

14 & 15 | 6 | 2019

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall

HK\$480 \$380 \$280 \$220

Tickets are now available at URB.TIX.

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Ernest Martínez Izquierdo](#)

conductor

[Michel Camilo](#)

jazz piano

Click the thumbnails to download press images [Or hold Ctrl then click to open the file]



Ernest Martínez Izquierdo



Michel Camilo



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra  
Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-wai/HK Phil

### Programme\*

**Michel CAMILO**

Piano Concerto no. 1 (HK premiere)

**GINASTERA**

*Estancia Suite*

**GERSHWIN**

*Rhapsody in Blue*

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## 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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* was released in November 2018.

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