

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 4 September 2019

HK Phil's Beethoven 250th Series – Concert Tickets Available TODAY! **Five all-Beethoven programmes from January to May 2020, featuring great pianists Lang Lang, Rudolf Buchbinder, Rachel Cheung, Víkingur Ólafsson and Nobuyuki Tsujii**

[4 September 2019, Hong Kong] 2020 marks the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth. To celebrate this momentous year, the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** launches a special "Beethoven 250th" series with complete cycles of the composer's symphonies and concertos all conducted by Music Director [Jaap van Zweden](#) across two concert seasons from 2019/20. Five programmes will be first presented in the 2019/20 season, featuring great pianists [Lang Lang](#), [Rudolf Buchbinder](#), [Rachel Cheung](#), [Víkingur Ólafsson](#) and [Nobuyuki Tsujii](#). Tickets for these five programmes are available at [URBTIX](#) from today. **BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

Jaap's Beethoven 1 | Lang Lang **(16 & 18 January 2020, Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall)**

Launching the series, "the hottest artist on the classical music planet" (*New York Times*), superstar pianist [Lang Lang](#), returns to the stage of the HK Phil after four years, performing the work which Beethoven himself played as his public debut in Vienna – **Piano Concerto no. 2**. The same programme also features the **Egmont Overture** and Beethoven's tribute to his teacher Haydn, **Symphony no. 1** (16 & 18 January 2020).

Tickets are HK\$1,880, \$1,480, \$980 and \$580 and are available at [URBTIX](#). A maximum of TWO tickets can be purchased on the first day of ticket sale.



Image Credit: HK Phil

Jaap's Beethoven 2 | Rudolf Buchbinder (31 January & 1 February 2020, Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall)

"Although my doctor had forbidden me to work, I sat down to do something for those mustachios who are genuinely fond of me." So wrote Beethoven in 1811 as he started on a commission for the theatre in the Hungarian city of Pest. Those "mustachios" received **Ruins of Athens Overture**. Our second Beethoven anniversary concert also follows his growing fame back in Vienna with his **Second Symphony** and his **Piano Concerto No. 4** featuring [Rudolf Buchbinder](#), described by the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* as "one of today's most important and competent Beethoven performers".

Tickets are HK\$680, \$580, \$480 and \$380 and are available at [URBTIX](#). A maximum of 2 tickets can be purchased on the first day of ticket sale.

Change of Programme

At the request of the soloist, Beethoven Piano Concerto no. 1 will be replaced by Beethoven Piano Concerto no. 4. Other pieces remain unchanged.

Jaap's Beethoven 5 | Rachel Cheung (26 & 27 February 2020, Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium)

The HK Phil captivates the audience with Beethoven's most famous and popular work, **Symphony no. 5**, as well as the impressive **Leonore Overture no.2**. The concert also features two Hong Kong musicians – pianist [Rachel Cheung](#) in the lively **Rondo for piano and orchestra**, originally intended for Beethoven's Second Piano Concerto, and soprano [Louise Kwong](#) in "Ah perfido!"

Tickets are HK\$680, \$580, \$480 and \$380 and are available at [URBTIX](#). A maximum of 2 tickets can be purchased on the first day of ticket sale.

Jaap's Beethoven 3 | Víkingur Ólafsson (20 & 21 March 2020, Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall)

With the **Fidelio Overture** and **Symphony no. 3, Eroica**, this concert celebrates heroic deeds in the face of tyranny. Alongside these, "Iceland's Glenn Gould", [Vikingur Ólafsson](#), performs Beethoven's **Piano Concerto no. 3**, which sees the piano in a heroic struggle for dominance against the orchestra.

Tickets are HK\$580, \$480, \$380 and \$280 and are available at [URBTIX](#). A maximum of 2 tickets can be purchased on the first day of ticket sale.

Jaap's Beethoven 4 | Nobuyuki Tsujii (22 & 23 May 2020, Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall)

Remarkable Japanese pianist [Nobuyuki Tsujii](#), who has been blind from birth and won the joint Gold Medal at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2009, when he was praised by Van Cliburn as "absolutely miraculous", will exert his miraculous powers over Beethoven's majestic **Piano Concerto no. 5, Emperor**, while the HK Phil continues its Beethoven celebrations with **Symphony no. 4**.

Tickets are HK\$680, \$580, \$480 and \$380 and are available at [URBTIX](#). A maximum of 2 tickets can be purchased on the first day of ticket sale.

For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

BEETHOVEN 250TH : JAAP'S BEETHOVEN 1 | LANG LANG

16 & 18 | 1 | 2020

THU & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$1880 \$1480 \$980 \$580

Tickets are now available at URBTIX.

A maximum of TWO tickets can be purchased on the first day of ticket sale.

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#) conductor

[Lang Lang](#) piano

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



Jaap van Zweden

Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-wai/HK Phil



Lang Lang

Photo Credit: Philip Chau



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Eric Hong/HK Phil

Programme

BEETHOVEN *Egmont* Overture
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto no. 2
BEETHOVEN Symphony no. 1

BEETHOVEN 250TH: JAAP'S BEETHOVEN 2 | RUDOLF BUCHBINDER

31 | 1 & 1 | 2 | 2020

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$680 \$580 \$480 \$380

Tickets are now available at URBTIX.

A maximum of TWO tickets can be purchased on the first day of ticket sale.

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#) conductor

[Rudolf Buchbinder](#) piano

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Jaap van Zweden
Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-wai/HK Phil



Rudolf Buchbinder
Photo Credit: Marco Borggreve



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo Credit: Cheung Wai-lok/HK Phil

Programme

BEETHOVEN *Ruins of Athens Overture*

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto no. 1

BEETHOVEN Symphony no. 2

Change of Programme

At the request of the soloist, Beethoven Piano Concerto no. 1 will be replaced by Beethoven Piano Concerto no. 4. The remaining repertoires remain unchanged.

BEETHOVEN 250TH: JAAP'S BEETHOVEN 5 | RACHEL CHEUNG

26 & 27 | 2 | 2020

WED & THU 8PM

Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium

HK\$680 \$580 \$480 \$380

Tickets are now available at URBTIX.

A maximum of TWO tickets can be purchased on the first day of ticket sale.

For ages 6 and above



Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#)

conductor

[Louise Kwong](#)

soprano

[Rachel Cheung](#)

piano

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Jaap van Zweden
Photo Credit: Wong Kin-chung/HK Phil



Louise Kwong



Rachel Cheung
Photo Credit: Cheung Tai Chi



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo Credit: Eric Hong/HK Phil

Programme

BEETHOVEN

Leonore Overture no. 2

BEETHOVEN

"Ah perfido!", for soprano and orchestra

BEETHOVEN

Rondo for piano and orchestra

BEETHOVEN

Symphony no. 5

BEETHOVEN 250TH: JAAP'S BEETHOVEN 3 | VÍKINGUR ÓLAFSSON

20 & 21 | 3 | 2020

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$580 \$480 \$380 \$280

Tickets are now available at URBTIX.

A maximum of TWO tickets can be purchased on the first day of ticket sale.

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#)

conductor

[Víkingur Ólafsson](#)

piano

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



Jaap van Zweden
Photo Credit: Wong Kin-chung/HK Phil



Víkingur Ólafsson
Photo Credit: Ari Magg



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo Credit: Eric Hong/HK Phil

Programme

BEETHOVEN

Fidelio Overture

BEETHOVEN

Piano Concerto no. 3

BEETHOVEN

Symphony no. 3, *Eroica*

BEETHOVEN 250TH: JAAP'S BEETHOVEN 4 | NOBUYUKI TSUJII

22 & 23 | 5 | 2020

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$680 \$580 \$480 \$380

Tickets are now available at URBTIX.

A maximum of TWO tickets can be purchased on the first day of ticket sale.

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#) conductor

[Nobuyuki Tsujii](#) piano

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



Jaap van Zweden

Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-wai/HK Phil



Nobuyuki Tsujii

Photo Credit: Giorgia Bertazzi



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Cheung Wai-lok/HK Phil

Programme

BEETHOVEN

Coriolan Overture

BEETHOVEN

Piano Concerto no. 5, *Emperor*

BEETHOVEN

Symphony no. 4

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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. Recently the HK Phil has been nominated for the prestigious UK classical music magazine *Gramophone's* 2019 Orchestra of the Year Award – the first orchestra in Asia to receive this nomination.

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 also Music Director of the New York Philharmonic since 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 across the Mainland China. In 2017, in celebration of the 20th 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.