

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Christoph Koncz's Second Programme with the HK Phil Featuring Pianist Zee Zee in Liszt's Piano Concerto no. 1

Brahms 1 | Zee Zee Plays Liszt (5 May, ONE performance only)

[28 April 2021, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) will perform masterpieces by Brahms and Liszt on 5 May (ONE performance only) in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall, under the baton of Austrian conductor [Christoph Koncz](#), with internationally renowned pianist [Zee Zee](#).

“[Zee Zee] a powerful, passionate and compelling representation of pure artistry.”
--- *Los Angeles Times*

The concert opens with **Zee Zee** playing **Liszt's** brilliant **Piano Concerto no. 1**, which Zee Zee recently recorded for Deutsche Grammophon, and is the perfect vehicle for her breathtaking virtuosity. It took Liszt over a quarter of a century to complete this concerto, which ends in a blaze of pianistic glory with a whirlwind of chromatically descending octaves.

Brahms' Symphony no. 1 also took over two decades to complete, as Brahms felt he was always working in the shadow of Beethoven. Despite his worry that “nobody can write a symphony after Beethoven”, it was a huge success, and was hailed by critics at its premiere describing it as “Beethoven's Tenth”, while today it is universally considered one of the 19th century's greatest symphonies.

Zee Zee is invited through a special collaboration between the HK Phil and Premiere Performances. She will perform a solo recital for Premiere Performances on 17 May in “Zee Zee Piano Recital: Liszt/Ravel: Voyages”.

Brahms 1 | Zee Zee Plays Liszt will be presented on **5 May 2021 (Wed)** at **8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets are HK\$420, \$320 and \$220 and are available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](#).

Artists

Christoph Koncz, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Christoph Koncz enjoys a wide-ranging international career as a conductor, violin soloist and chamber musician, and is Principal Violinist of the Vienna Philharmonic. His conducting debut at the 2013 Salzburg Mozartwoche was followed by concerts at the Berlin, Cologne and Munich Philharmonie, Vienna Konzerthaus and KKL Lucerne, as well as at the Salzburg Festival. In 2017 he made his US conducting debut with the Memphis Symphony, and conducted the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich in a masterclass with David Zinman. He made his subscription debut at the Cologne Philharmonie with Concerto Köln in June 2018, and took the Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal on tour in March 2019.

Zee Zee, piano [\[full description\]](#)

Zee Zee is “full of enthusiasm and glamour, radiating the vigour of youth” (*Chinese Gramophone*), and her creative maturity has been hailed as “a powerful, passionate and compelling representation of pure artistry” (*Los Angeles Times*). Recent highlights have included the season opening concert with the Estonian National Symphony under Neeme Järvi, the Macedonian Philharmonic, the China Philharmonic at the Beijing Music Festival, the Philharmonia Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, London, under Paavo Järvi, and the complete piano concertos of Beethoven and Saint-Saëns with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra.

Brahms 1 | Zee Zee Plays Liszt

5 | 5 | 2021

WED 8 PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK \$420 \$320 \$220

Tickets now available at URBIX; ONE performance only

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Christoph Koncz](#)

conductor

[Zee Zee](#)

piano

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



Christoph Koncz

Photo Credit: Andreas Hechenberger



Zee Zee

Photo Credit: zeezee-piano.com



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Eric Hong/HK Phil

Programme

LISZT

Piano Concerto no. 1

BRAHMS

Symphony no. 1

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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. In 2019 the HK Phil received the prestigious *Gramophone* Orchestra of the Year Award – the first orchestra in Asia to receive this distinction.

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 through to the end of the 2023/24 season. Following his tenure as Music Director, he will hold the title of Conductor Laureate. Maestro van Zweden has also been Music Director of the New York Philharmonic since the 2018/19 season.

Yu Long has been Principal Guest Conductor since the 2015/16 season.

Lio Kuokman has been appointed as Resident Conductor, effective 1 December 2020 and covering the 2020/21 and 2021/22 seasons.

Under the dynamic leadership of Jaap van Zweden, the HK Phil has attained new heights of artistic excellence, garnering international critical acclaim. 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 and live Naxos recordings were enthusiastically received by audiences, praised by critics at home and abroad, and garnered *Gramophone* Orchestra of the Year Award 2019.

The HK Phil tours extensively across Mainland China and, with the support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, 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.

Thanks to a significant subsidy from the HKSAR Government, as well as long-term funding from Principal Patron Swire, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and other supporters, the HK Phil presents an annual schedule of core classical repertoire and innovative popular programming, extensive education and community programmes, and collaborations with, among others, Opera Hong Kong, Hong Kong Arts Festival, and Hong Kong Ballet.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Joshua Bell, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, Renée Fleming, Matthias Goerne, Stephen Hough, Evgeny Kissin, Katia and Marielle Labèque (the Labèque sisters), 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 conducting their own compositions. Its acclaimed education and community engagement programmes in schools, hospitals, and outdoor spaces, bring music into the hearts of tens of thousands of children and families every year. The recently founded "The Orchestra Academy Hong Kong", funded by "TrustTomorrow" of The Swire Group Charitable Trust and co-directed with The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, aims at enhancing professional training for graduates from HKAPA's School of Music and facilitating their career development in the orchestral field.

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, stimulate cultural participation in Hong Kong, and enhance Hong Kong's reputation as one of the great cities in the world.



梵志登 音樂總監
Jaap van Zweden Music Director

余隆 首席客席指揮
Yu Long Principal Guest Conductor

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 a Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.