

PRESS RELEASE
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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Fuses Music into Daily Life Introducing Brand New “Phil Your Life” Programme First Season: MUSIC X FOOD

[20 July 2021, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is excited to present a brand new programme “Phil Your Life”, fusing music with **food, wellness** and **storytelling**. This new programme is designed to brighten up lives in a light-hearted way by drawing the amusing connections between music and daily life.

Starting a new chapter of the partnership, Swire and the HK Phil join hands to develop new community initiatives. This new “Phil Your Life” programme aims to bring the general public one step closer to classical music and open the door to classical music for the new audience. The programme will reveal the vibrant, cosmopolitan culture of Hong Kong through the lens of the HK Phil musicians and their music.

Today, the HK Phil launches the first season of “Phil Your Life” – **MUSIC X FOOD** – in four episodes. Hong Kong is a “Food Paradise” and everyone loves the taste of Hong Kong. By blending music with the iconic foods of the city, everyone gets to share familiar flavours, and hope they will all want more! The four types of foods are featured: **International Street Food in Tong Chong Street Market**, **Chiu Chow Cuisine (潮州小碟)**, **Dim Sum (點心)**, and **Cha Chaan Teng food (茶餐廳小吃)**, together with music curated by HK Phil musicians – [Wang Liang](#), Second Associate Concertmaster; [Anna Kwan](#), cello; [George Lomdaridze](#), Principal Double Bass; [Kevin Thompson](#), trombone; [Raymond Leung](#) and [Sophia Woo](#), percussion.

Starting from **TODAY (20 July)***, “Phil Your Life” - MUSIC X FOOD goes live with **one episode per month on HK Phil website, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, WeChat and Bilibili!** HK Phil musicians will pair music with food in a unique experience. Be sure to keep an eye on the HK Phil online platforms!



(Click above image to download photos from behind the scenes)

***HK Phil “Phil Your Life” – MUSIC X FOOD Broadcast Schedule**

<p>Ep. 1: Fun Phil Tong Chong Street</p> <p>Food: International Street Food in Tong Chong Street Market Music: Paganini, Caprice no. 24 (rearranged in Latin American style) Musicians: Wang Liang, Second Associate Concertmaster; Anna Kwan, cello; George Lomdaridze, Principal Double Bass; Raymond Leung and Sophia Woo, percussion</p>	<p>20 July 2021 (Tuesday)</p>
<p>Ep. 2: Overture to Colour, Aroma & Taste</p> <p>Food: Chiu Chow Cuisine Music: Bernstein, <i>Candide</i> Overture HK Phil musician: Wang Liang, Second Associate Concertmaster</p>	<p>17 August 2021 (Tuesday)</p>
<p>Ep. 3: A Yummy Bite of Music</p> <p>Food: Dim Sum Music: Bach, Cello Suite no. 3, Bourrée I; Mark Summer, <i>Julie-O</i> (excerpt); Mozart, Serenade in B flat, K. 361, <i>Gran Partita</i>, 4th movement Musician: Anna Kwan, cello</p>	<p>14 September 2021 (Tuesday)</p>
<p>Ep. 4: The Music & the Human Touch</p> <p>Food: Cha Chaan Teng – sugar egg puff plus Yuenyeung (coffee with milk tea) Music: Pryor, <i>Thoughts of Love</i>; Beethoven, Romance no. 2 Musician: Kevin Thompson, trombone</p>	<p>12 October 2021 (Tuesday)</p>

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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.

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.