

PRESS RELEASE
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Swire Symphony Under The Stars Presented Live Again!
The HK Phil performed for a live audience of near 14,000, sharing music under the city's iconic skyline, and livestreamed for global music lovers

[15 November 2021, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) returned to the stage at Central Harbourfront on 13 November (Saturday), performing its iconic annual **Swire Symphony Under The Stars** concert to near 12,000 live audiences gathered in Central and around 2,000 participated at a live screening relay at West Kowloon Cultural District's Art Park, with a combined total of around 14,000 people attending the much anticipated event.

Led by **conductor Wilson Ng** and hosted by popular **presenter Harry Gor Gor (Harry Wong)**, the HK Phil presented an exuberant programme of dazzling dance music, including *Sleeping Beauty Waltz*, *Danse macabre*, *Blue Danube Waltz*, Hungarian Dance no. 5 and *Sabre Dance*. Calling the event "a mega dance party", Harry Gor Gor preceded each piece with a lively introduction and engaged audience members in cheerful banter.

HK Phil musicians were featured as soloists, with **Principal Viola Andrew Ling** playing Piazzolla's sultry *Le Grand Tango*, and the **Trumpet section (Christopher Moyse, Douglas Waterston and Robert Smith)** performing Leroy Anderson's fun and classic *Bugler's Holiday*. The concert concluded with a stunning fireworks display, accompanied by the finale of Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*.

Commenting on this massive live outdoor production, HK Phil Chief Executive Benedikt Fohr said, "We thank The Swire Group, HK Phil's Principal Patron, as well as our partners for making this concert possible. We are very excited to be back on this stage to perform live, not only sharing music with audiences in HK but also globally online – showcasing one of the world's great orchestras, while also sharing the vitality and energy of Hong Kong with the rest of the world."

The concert also marked HK Phil's live screening debut at the West Kowloon Cultural District, near 2,000 audience members enjoyed the livestreamed relay on the opposite side of the harbour.

The HK Phil wishes to express its deepest gratitude for the generous and continued support from Swire, as well as to Hong Kong's music lovers who have helped make *Swire Symphony Under The Stars* such a marvellous success year after year.

Streamed live and accessible worldwide, *Swire Symphony Under The Stars* reached far beyond the people who attended in person. The concert will remain available for worldwide access for three months on the HK Phil Facebook page, HK Phil website, and HK Phil YouTube channel.

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Photo Credit: Please refer to file name

Principal Patron: SWIRE

Live Streaming Technology Partner: TFI

Official Anti-Pandemic Partner: GERMAGIC™

Concert Live Screening @ West Kowloon Art Park

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden, SBS

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 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 is also Music Director of the New York Philharmonic. Yu Long has been Principal Guest Conductor since the 2015/16 season, while Lio Kuokman has been Resident Conductor since the 2020/21 season.

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, and garnered Gramophone Orchestra of the Year Award 2019.

The HK Phil tours extensively across Mainland China and around the world, to showcase the orchestra's and the city's artistic excellence. In 2019, the HK Phil was the first Hong Kong arts group to perform in the Greater Bay Area since the promulgation of the "Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area". With the support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, the HK Phil undertook a major tour in 2017 to Seoul, Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne and Sydney in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.

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, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Hong Kong Ballet, HKU MUSE, Opera Hong Kong and Tai Kwun.

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, 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.