

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 20 April 2022

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is Back to the Stage with a New Line-up of Programmes

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[20 April 2022, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is thrilled to return to the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Let's continue our musical journey and harbour a love for music!

The Swire Classic Insights Series on 29 & 30 April, presented by HK Phil musicians, will introduce the fabulous music of three great composers – Ravel, Beethoven and Prokofiev. On 6 & 7 May, rising Finnish conductor, Taavi Oramo, presents a series of sea-themed masterpieces from Debussy, Sibelius, Takemitsu, John Williams and Heta Aho. Alongside Hong Kong-born pianist, Aristo Sham, the HK Phil will present an all-Mendelssohn programme on 13 & 14 May. Finally, Blue Planet II Live In Concert (HK Premiere) conducted by Joshua Tan, will be held on 20 - 22 May; experience the vivid sounds of our wonderful world with live orchestra and spectacular visuals!

Tickets are limited; act quickly to snap up the tickets!

Swire Classic Insights Series: Meet Your Composers (29 & 30 April)

Swire Classic Insights is a series of free concerts with programmes designed thematically to introduce a variety of music. Members of the HK Phil will guide the audience with live commentaries and physical demonstrations to offer a deeper appreciation of masterpieces by three great composers – Ravel, Beethoven and Prokofiev – in three concerts. Conductors Lorenzo Losco and Andrew Ling will introduce the series with a magical fairy tale and two beautiful dances by Ravel. Next, Domas Juškys will explain how Beethoven transformed his struggles into the bright and sunny Eighth Symphony. Finally, conductor Leung Kin-fung will show how the Ukrainian-born composer, Prokofiev, employed both sarcasm and sorrow in his invigorating music.

Registration for these three concerts is free of charge, details will be announced on 22 Apr 2022 (Fri) on [HK Phil's website](#). Tickets are limited and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sounds of the Sea (6 & 7 May)

The sea has always challenged and inspired composers. In his HK Phil debut, the young Finnish conductor Taavi Oramo will take the HK Phil on a fantastic ocean voyage through the imaginations of composers ranging from Sibelius to Takemitsu and John Williams, and ending with Debussy's masterpiece, *La mer*. Oramo will also present the Asia premiere of Aho's new work, taking on a second role as the solo tenor.

Magnificent Mendelssohn (13 & 14 May)

Felix Mendelssohn was one of the most dazzling prodigies in the history of music. He created his first masterpieces when he was in his teens, and everything he wrote sparkles with the same freshness, fantasy and joy. In this concert we have two artists who share Mendelssohn's youthful spirit – multiple prize-winner, Hong Kong-born pianist Aristo Sham; and the brilliant young Finnish conductor Taavi Oramo. They will bring all their energy and insight to the rarely-heard *Konzertstück* and the sunlit *Italian* Symphony.

BBC Blue Planet II Live In Concert (HK Premiere) (20 - 22 May)

Conducted by Joshua Tan, the concert features a selection of stunning visuals from the iconic television series, highlighting the incredible natural wonders of our blue planet in breath-taking detail, projected on a giant screen. Accompanying these will be the original immersive music score by Hans Zimmer, David Fleming and Jacob Shea, performed live by the HK Phil.

Tickets of **Sounds of the Sea** and **Magnificent Mendelssohn** will be available at URBTIX from 21 April 2022 (Thu), 10am; and tickets for **BBC Blue Planet II Live in Concert** will be available at URBTIX from 26 April 2022 (Tue), 10am. For inquiries, please call + 852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](#).

Artists

Taavi Oramo, conductor/tenor [\[full description\]](#)

(For Sounds of the Sea and Magnificent Mendelssohn)

Taavi Oramo enjoys a growing reputation for his forward-thinking approach to music-making. Artist-in-Residence with the Tapiola Sinfonietta in 2019/20 and Artistic Director of VocalEspoo from 2020, he specialises in cultivating programmes that have an innate dramatic or thematic structure, and is equally at home in mainstream repertoire and cutting-edge, contemporary works. Oramo is also an accomplished tenor, and the double role of conducting/singing is an important feature of his programming.

Megan Sterling, alto flute [\[full description\]](#)

(For Sounds of the Sea)

Principal Flute of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra since 2002, Australian-born Megan Sterling has enjoyed working with some of the world's top conductors and soloists. She has appeared several times as a soloist with the orchestra, as well as in recitals, radio broadcasts, Canto-pop recordings and chamber music concerts in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Australia, Europe and the US. Sterling is also a sought-after teacher, with experience giving masterclasses, chamber music coaching and adjudication for competitions.

Dan Yu, harp [\[full description\]](#)

(For Sounds of the Sea)

Since winning the Gold Medal at the prestigious 5th USA International Harp Competition in 2001, Dan Yu's lyrical interpretations, profound musicality, and technical mastery have captivated and dazzled audiences across four continents. She has performed solo recitals and chamber music concerts throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, and appeared to great acclaim at Alice Tully Hall, New York, and Wigmore Hall, London.

Andrew Simon, clarinet [\[full description\]](#)

(For Magnificent Mendelssohn)

Boasting a distinguished career spanning over three decades, New York-born clarinetist Andrew Simon has appeared as soloist and guest lecturer on four continents. As Principal Clarinet of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (since 1988), he has recorded solo works by Baermann and Stravinsky and has performed concerti over 70 times, including John Corigliano's Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra which he studied with the Academy Award-winning composer.

Lorenzo Losco, basset horn [\[full description\]](#)

(For Magnificent Mendelssohn)

Lorenzo Losco is an Italian clarinetist and conductor based in Hong Kong where he is a member of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. He has been a member at Madrid Opera House Teatro Real in Spain and London Symphony Orchestra respectively. As soloist, he performed all major clarinet repertoire in Europe and Asia.

Aristo Sham, pianist [\[full description\]](#)

(For Magnificent Mendelssohn)

Described by *The New York Times* as a pianist "whose playing combines clarity, elegance and abundant technique", and by the *Washington Post* as a young artist with "boundless potential" who can "already hold his own with the best", pianist Aristo Sham has dazzled audiences on five continents. Aristo has won a number of international prizes, including First Prize at the 2006 Ettlingen International Piano Competition in Germany, First Prize in the Gina Bachauer International Junior Piano Competition in 2008. In 2019 he was First Prize winner of the Alessandro Casagrande International Piano Competition.

Joshua Tan, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

(For BBC Blue Planet II Live in Concert)

Currently Principal Conductor of the Singapore National Youth Orchestra and Director of the Asia Virtuosi, Joshua Tan has served successful stints as Resident Conductor of the National Center for the Performing Arts (China) Orchestra, Principal Conductor of the Guiyang Symphony Orchestra and Associate Conductor of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. His performances of Bernstein's *Mass* and the opera *Don Pasquale* were selected as the best classical concerts of the years 2018 and 2019 by the *Straits Times*.

Christopher Moyse, narrator [\[full description\]](#)

(For BBC Blue Planet II Live in Concert)

Christopher Moyse was appointed to the trumpet section of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra in 2005. As a teacher he serves on the faculties of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong Baptist University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. In 2013, he was elected as an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM), an award given to "former students who have made a significant contribution to the music profession."

SWIRE CLASSIC INSIGHTS: MEET YOUR COMPOSERS

I. RAVEL

29 | 4 | 2022

FRI 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

Artists

[Lorenzo Losco](#) conductor/commentator*
[Andrew Ling](#) conductor/commentator

Programme

RAVEL *Ma mère l'Oye* (Mother Goose)
RAVEL *Pavane pour une infante défunte*
RAVEL *La valse*

II. BEETHOVEN

30 | 4 | 2022

SAT 3PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

Artist

[Domas Juškys](#) conductor/commentator*

Programme

BEETHOVEN *Symphony no. 8*

III. PROKOFIEV

30 | 4 | 2022

SAT 5PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

Artist

[Leung Kin-fung](#) conductor/commentator

Programme

PROKOFIEV *Symphony no. 1, Classical*
PROKOFIEV *Romeo and Juliet* excerpts

*Commentaries conducted in English only

[Download](#) Artists Photos



Lorenzo Losco



Andrew Ling
Photo Credit: Yankov Wong



Domas Juškys



Leung Kin-fung



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

Registration for these three concerts is free of charge, details will be announced on 22 Apr 2022 (Fri) at [HK Phil's website](#). Suitable for ages 6 and above.

SOUNDS OF THE SEA

6 & 7 | 5 | 2022

FRI 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$420 \$320 \$220

Tickets available at URBTIX from 21 April 2022 (Thu), 10am

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Taavi Oramo](#) conductor/tenor

[Megan Sterling](#) alto flute

[Dan Yu](#) harp

[Download](#) Artists Photos



Taavi Oramo
Photo Credit: Tero Ahonen



Megan Sterling



Dan Yu



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo Credit: Ka Lam/HK Phil

Programme

SIBELIUS *The Oceanides*

TAKEMITSU *Toward the Sea II*

JOHN WILLIAMS *Suite from Jaws*

DEBUSSY *Danse sacrée et profane*

HETA AHO *Three Songs to Poems by Edith Södergran (Asia Premiere)*

DEBUSSY *La mer*

Cultural Partner: French May Arts Festival

MAGNIFICENT MENDELSSOHN

13 & 14 | 5 | 2022

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$480 \$380 \$280

Tickets available at URBTIX from 21 April 2022 (Thu), 10am

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Taavi Oramo](#)

conductor

[Andrew Simon](#)

clarinet

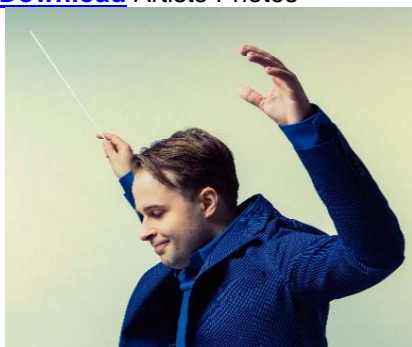
[Lorenzo Losco](#)

basset horn

[Aristo Sham](#)

piano

[Download](#) Artists Photos



Taavi Oramo

Photo Credit: Tero Ahonen



Andrew Simon



Lorenzo Losco



Aristo Sham



Hong Kong Philharmonic
Orchestra

Photo Credit: Ka Lam/HK Phil

Programme

MENDELSSOHN

Konzertstück no. 2

MENDELSSOHN

Piano Concerto no. 1

MENDELSSOHN

Symphony no. 4, *Italian*

BBC BLUE PLANET II LIVE IN CONCERT

20 & 21 | 5 | 2022

FRI & SAT 8PM

21 & 22 | 5 | 2022

SAT & SUN 3PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$480 \$380 \$280

Tickets available at URBTIX from 26 April 2022 (Tue), 10am

Suitable for ages 6 and above, unless specified otherwise

Performance on 21 May, 3pm is sponsored by Chow Sang Sang.

Performance on 22 May, 3pm is under Swire Sunday Family Series. For ages 3 and above.

Artists

[Joshua Tan](#)

conductor

[Christopher Moyse](#)

narrator

[Download](#) Artists Photos



Joshua Tan

Photo Credit: Alan Lim



Christopher Moyse



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Eric Hong/HK Phil

Programme

BBC *Blue Planet II* (HK Premiere)

Film screening with live orchestra performance, narrated in English.

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden, SBS

Principal Guest Conductor: Yu Long

Resident Conductor: Lio Kuokman

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.



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

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.