

## HK Phil Spotlights Long Yu, Frank Peter Zimmermann, and Tan Dun in May

**[30 April 2025, Hong Kong]** In late May, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) will present two programmes featuring masterpieces by Edward Elgar and Tan Dun. Led by HK Phil Principal Guest Conductor Long Yu and guest conductor Tan Dun himself, the concerts will feature acclaimed violinist Frank Peter Zimmermann, a list of celebrated vocalists as well as percussionists. “Swire Maestro Series: Long Yu & Frank Peter Zimmermann” will be held on 22 May 2025 at the Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall, followed by “Tan Dun | Tea: A Mirror of Soul” on 30 & 31 May 2025 at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets are now available on URBIX.

### Swire Maestro Series: Long Yu & Frank Peter Zimmermann (22 May)



HK Phil Principal Guest Conductor Long Yu will present Elgar’s masterful and deeply personal *Enigma Variations*, a personal collection of 14 musical portraits of the composer’s close friends and family. Each variation is headed by initials, or by a name, except for number 13. The most famous one, titled “Nimrod”, refers to Augustus Jaeger, Elgar’s great friend, supporter of his music, and music editor at Novello’s.

The evening concludes with Frank Peter Zimmermann taking centre stage to showcase his virtuosity in Elgar’s passionate and lyrical Violin Concerto, which was written for Fritz Kreisler, one of the finest violinists of all time well-known for his technical brilliance. Frank Peter Zimmermann performs on the Lady Inchiquin Stradivarius, a violin once owned by Fritz Kreisler, bringing a meaningful connection to the concerto’s origins.

“Swire Maestro Series: Long Yu & Frank Peter Zimmermann” will be held on 22 May 2025 (Thu) at 8PM at the Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$520, \$420, \$320 and \$220 are available at URBIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](http://hkphil.org).

### Tan Dun | Tea: A Mirror of Soul (30 & 31 May)





*Tea: A Mirror of Soul*, one of the five acclaimed operas by world-renowned Chinese composer Tan Dun, will be staged in Hong Kong in May. Premiered in Japan in 2002, the opera was inspired by *The Classic of Tea* by revered tea master Lu Yu. It tells the stirring love story of Seikyo, a Japanese prince, and Lan, a Tang Dynasty princess. Following Lan's death, Seikyo becomes a monk, devoting his life to spreading the way of tea.

Written by Tan Dun and Xu Ying, a national first-class playwright of the China Opera and Dance Theater and directed by award-winning Hungarian film director Csaba Káel, the opera-in-concert performance will feature soprano Lucy Fitz Gibbon, baritone Sun Li, tenor Motoki Ishii, bass Apollo Wong, mezzo-soprano Liu Niru, as well as percussionists Rong Chenchu, Karen Yu, Elise Liu, and a bass-baritone chorus. Under the baton of Tan Dun himself, the HK Phil embark on a journey, together with featured soloists and chorus, to uncover the authentic, Zen-imbued essence of *The Classic of Tea*.

"Tan Dun | Tea: A Mirror of Soul" will be held on 30 & 31 May 2025 (Fri & Sat) at 8PM at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$520, \$420, \$320, \$220 and \$50 are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](http://hkphil.org).

This concert is one of the activities in the "Chinese Culture Promotion Series", "Chinese Culture Festival 2025" and "Tan Dun WE-Festival".

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## Artists

### **Long Yu, conductor** [\[full description\]](#)

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “the most powerful figure in China's classical music scene”, the conductor and impresario Long Yu has devoted his illustrious career to steering China's growing connection to classical music. Maestro Yu currently holds the top position in the country's most prominent orchestras: Artistic Director of the China Philharmonic Orchestra in Beijing, and Music Director of the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra. He is also the Principal Guest Conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, co-director of Shanghai's Music in the Summer Air festival, and Chair of the Artistic Committee of the Beijing Music Festival. He is currently Vice President of the China Musicians Association and Chairman of its League of China Orchestras.

### **Frank Peter Zimmermann, violin** [\[full description\]](#)

Frank Peter Zimmermann is widely regarded as one of the foremost violinists of his generation. He has been performing with all major orchestras in the world, among which the Berlin Philharmonic with whom he made his debut in 1985 with Daniel Barenboim, the Vienna Philharmonic with whom he played for the first time in 1983 with Lorin Maazel during the Salzburg Festival, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, all London orchestras, as well as major American orchestras. He is a regular guest at various music festivals, such as Salzburg, Edinburgh and Lucerne. In recent years he has been giving recitals with pianist Martin Helmchen and Dmytro Choni.

### **Tan Dun, conductor/composer/librettist** [\[full description\]](#)

A world-renowned conductor-composer and UNESCO Global Goodwill Ambassador, Tan Dun has made an indelible mark on the world's music scene with a creative repertoire that spans the boundaries of classical music, multimedia performance, and Eastern and Western traditions. He has been the recipient of today's most coveted honours comprising the Grammy Award, Academy Award, BAFTA Award, Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement and Istanbul Music Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award.

### **Xu Ying, co-librettist** [\[full description\]](#)

National first-class playwright of China Opera and Dance Theater. From 1996 to 1998, he went to the United States as a visiting scholar and served as a visiting professor at the University of Los Angeles. His drama works have been performed in theaters and international art festivals in the United States, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Greece, New Zealand, Japan and other countries, as well as in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Macao and other regions of China, and many operas and dramas have been translated Performed in English, German, Japanese, French, Italian, Korean and other languages.

### **Csaba Káel, director** [\[full description\]](#)

Csaba Káel is a Hungarian film director and CEO of Műpa Budapest. He has received numerous honours, including the Award for Music Video of the Year in 1991, Béla Bartók Memorial Prize in 2008, Kálmán Nádasdy Prize in 2013 and Kossuth Prize in 2020. In 2018, he was appointed as the Cultural Tourism Ambassador of Budapest.

### **Lucy Fitz Gibbon, soprano** [\[full description\]](#)

A graduate of Yale University, Lucy Fitz Gibbon also holds an artist diploma from The Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory and a master's degree from Bard College - Conservatory's Graduate Vocal Arts Program. She previously was Interim Director of the Vocal Program at Cornell University and now serves in the faculty of Bard College Conservatory's Vocal Arts Programs.

### **Sun Li, baritone** [\[full description\]](#)

Famous baritone singer, opera performer, director of Chinese Musicians Association, Vice Chairman of Fujian Musicians Association, first-class actor, excellent expert of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee and President of Fujian Vocational College of Art, Sun Li has won the Gold Medal of Bel Canto at the 10th National Youth Song Competition, the 31st Chinese Drama Plum Blossom Award, the Mandarin Performance Award at the 9th China Art Festival, and the “Five One Project” Award.

### **Motoki Ishii, tenor** [\[full description\]](#)

Motoki Ishii graduated with a master's degree in music (vocal) from the Tokyo University of Arts, where he gained his Bachelor of Music (vocal), then he attended the advanced course held by the Suntory Hall Opera Academy. He was awarded the second prize at the 4th Nikko International Music Festival Vocal Competition and at the 30th Takarazuka Vega Music Competition.

**Apollo Wong, bass** [\[full description\]](#)

A native of Hong Kong, Apollo Wong is a conductor and operatic bass. He has sung operatic and musical roles including the Superintendent Budd and Bottom in Britten's *Albert Herring* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Frère Laurent in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*, Colline and Simone in Puccini's *La Bohème* and *Gianni Schicchi*, Don Alfonso, Sarastro and Masetto in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, *Die Zauberflöte* and *Don Giovanni*, Geppetto in Valtinoni's *Pinocchio*, and Javert in *Les Misérables*, among others. Amongst his concert and oratorio repertoire, he has notably both sung the bass solos and conducted Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Mahler's *Symphony no. 8 "Symphony of a Thousand"*, Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* and Fauré's *Requiem*.

**Liu Niru, mezzo-soprano** [\[full description\]](#)

Liu Niru received her Bachelor of voice degree from Xinghai Conservatory of music and her Master of Music from Manhattan school of music. In 2018, she became the first Chinese singer to join Maestro Plácido Domingo Colburn-Stein Young Artist with the Los Angeles Opera. She was praised by an opera review magazine in Washington as "promising mezzo-soprano rising star", and one review also mentioned "the mezzo soprano Niru Liu showed tremendously promising silver tone voice."

**Rong Chenchu, percussion** [\[full description\]](#)

As an outstanding percussionist spanning classical, contemporary, and jazz music and active on concert stages at home and abroad, Rong Chenchu has been hailed by the American media as "a percussion leader in contemporary music", "a rare musical pioneer" by composer Tan Dun, and "the pride and future of oriental jazz" by jazz master Jerry Bergonzi.

**Karen Yu, percussion** [\[full description\]](#)

Percussionist, experimental sound artist and interdisciplinary arts researcher, Karen Yu uses sound-making as a medium to question and subvert the relationship between audience and performer. In explorations of new possibilities in performing arts and concert culture, she has collaborated with a number of artists and musicians, including Ken Ueno, Philippe Leroux, Michael Pisaro, Zihua Tan, Vinko Globokar and Jean-Pierre Drouet.

**Elise Liu, percussion** [\[full description\]](#)

Elise Liu is an award-winning percussion soloist, chamber musician and educator. As an artist, she seeks to demonstrate the virtuosic, lyrical and dramatic possibilities of percussion. Her musical talent, dedication and accomplishments have been widely recognised in Hong Kong and internationally.

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## Swire Maestro Series: Long Yu & Frank Peter Zimmermann

22 | 5 | 2025

THU 8PM

Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall

HK\$520 \$420 \$320 \$220

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Long Yu](#)

conductor

[Frank Peter Zimmermann](#)

violin

### Programme

**ELGAR** *Enigma Variations*

**ELGAR** Violin Concerto

[Download](#) press images



**Long Yu**

Photo: Liu Hui



**Frank Peter Zimmermann**

Photo: Harald Hoffmann



**Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**

Photo: Ka Lam/HK Phil



## Tan Dun | Tea: A Mirror of Soul

30 & 31 | 5 | 2025

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

\$520 \$420 \$320 \$220 \$50

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

<a href="#">Tan Dun</a>	conductor/composer/librettist
<a href="#">Xu Ying</a>	co-librettist
<a href="#">Csaba Káel</a>	director
<a href="#">Lucy Fitz Gibbon</a>	soprano
<a href="#">Sun Li</a>	baritone
<a href="#">Motoki Ishii</a>	tenor
<a href="#">Apollo Wong</a>	bass
<a href="#">Liu Niru</a>	mezzo-soprano
<a href="#">Rong Chenchu</a>	percussion
<a href="#">Karen Yu</a>	percussion
<a href="#">Elise Liu</a>	percussion
Bass-Baritone Chorus	

### Programme

**TAN Dun** *Tea: A Mirror of Soul* (Opera in Concert)



[Download](#) press images



Tan Dun



Xu Ying



Csaba Káel  
Photo: Szilvia Csibi



Lucy Fitz Gibbon



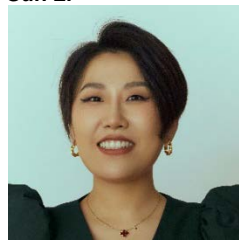
Sun Li



Motoki Ishii



Apollo Wong



Liu Niru



Rong Chenchu



Karen Yu



Elise Liu



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra  
Photo: Desmond Chan/HK Phil

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## Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director Designate: Tarmo Peltokoski

Principal Guest Conductor: Long Yu

Resident Conductor: Lio Kuokman, JP

Artistic Partner: Daniele Gatti

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is regarded as one of the leading orchestras in Asia. Presenting more than 150 concerts over a 44-week season, the HK Phil attracts more than 200,000 music lovers annually. The HK Phil won the prestigious UK classical music magazine *Gramophone*'s 2019 Orchestra of the Year Award – the first orchestra in Asia to receive this accolade.

Tarmo Peltokoski will become the HK Phil's Music Director beginning in the 2026/27 season, after serving as Music Director Designate in 2025/26. Currently, Long Yu serves as Principal Guest Conductor, Lio Kuokman is Resident Conductor, and Daniele Gatti is Artistic Partner.

The HK Phil has flourished in the last two decades under Jaap van Zweden (Music Director, 2012–2024) and Edo de Waart (Artistic Director and Chief Conductor, 2004–2012). 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 were well received, and the live Naxos recordings were praised by critics, and garnered the *Gramophone* Orchestra of the Year Award 2019. Other recent recording projects include Mahler's Symphony no. 10, Shostakovich's Symphony no. 10, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony no. 6 and Piano Concerto no. 1.

The HK Phil has toured extensively across Mainland China. The orchestra undertook a major tour in 2017 to Seoul, Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne and Sydney in celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The HK Phil celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the 2023/24 season, touring Europe, Asia, and Mainland China, performing in 22 cities across ten countries.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Anja Bihlmaier, Stéphane Denève, Christoph Eschenbach, Paavo Järvi, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Vasily Petrenko, Krzysztof Urbanski, Joshua Bell, Ning Feng, Boris Giltburg, Lang Lang, Leonidas Kavakos, Olivier Latry, Yo-Yo Ma and Akiko Suwanai. The HK Phil promotes the work of Hong Kong and Chinese composers through an active commissioning programme, and it has released recordings on the Naxos label featuring Tan Dun and Bright Sheng, each conducting their own compositions.

The HK Phil runs diverse education and community programmes in schools and outdoor spaces, bringing 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 current sponsorship donation, the largest in the orchestra's history, Swire endeavours to foster access to classical music and stimulate cultural participation in Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland. A critical aspect of this is engaging with the community, especially young people. The sponsorship will also help promote local artistic excellence and enhance Hong Kong's reputation as one of the great cities in the world.

Thanks to a significant subsidy from the Government of the HKSAR 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, amongst others, Hong Kong Ballet, Opera Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

The history of the HK Phil dates back to the establishment of the Sino-British Orchestra in 1947. In 1957, the orchestra was officially registered as the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and became fully professional in 1974. The HK Phil is a registered 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.