

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 1 August 2025

HK Phil Tour to Europe Ahead of 2025/26 Season
Conducted by Jaap van Zweden
Featuring Pianists Jussen Brothers, Alexandre Kantorow and Rudolf Buchbinder

[1 August 2025, Hong Kong] Following the success of its massive Singapore and Europe tour in 2024, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) returns to Europe for a four-concert tour ahead of its 2025/26 Season. Under the baton of Maestro Jaap van Zweden, the orchestra will perform across three countries from late August to early September, including its debut at Het Concertgebouw, one of the most prestigious concert halls in the world.

The tour will feature acclaimed pianists, including the Jussen Brothers and Alexandre Kantorow at Het Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and Rudolf Buchbinder at Kursaal in Merano and at Wolkenturm in Grafenegg. It is supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Brussels and Berlin of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Tour highlights:

- **Het Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, The Netherlands**
30 August 2025

Joined by world-renowned Dutch musicians Jaap van Zweden and the Jussen Brothers, the HK Phil will make its much-anticipated debut at Het Concertgebouw with a diverse and compelling programme. The first evening will open with *Asterismal Dance* by Hong Kong composer Daniel Lo, a piece in which distinctive musical materials traverse different sections of the orchestra in a non-linear fashion, like scattered stars across the sky. The concert continues with *In Unison*, a dynamic concerto for two pianos by Dutch composer Joey Roukens, performed by the Jussen Brothers. The programme concludes with Rachmaninov's lush Symphony no. 2.

- **Het Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, The Netherlands**
31 August 2025

On the following evening, the programme will begin with Wagner's majestic *Tannhäuser* Overture, offering a blend of grandeur, clarity, and jubilant spirit, and concludes with Beethoven's joyful and rhythmically charged Symphony no. 7. French pianist Alexandre Kantorow will take the stage for Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, a reprise of his acclaimed 2024 Singapore and Europe tour with Jaap van Zweden and the HK Phil.

- **Kursaal, Merano, Italy**
2 September 2025

The HK Phil will make its debut at the Kursaal concert hall, where Jaap van Zweden and the orchestra will reunite with Rudolf Buchbinder for Beethoven's Piano Concerto no. 3. The programme will begin with Wagner's *Tannhäuser* Overture and concludes with Beethoven's jubilant Symphony no. 7. This performance is part of the Südtirol Festival Merano, one of the most important classical music festivals in Europe.

- **Wolkenturm, Grafenegg, Austria**
5 September 2025

Lastly, the HK Phil will make its debut at the Wolkenturm with a reprise of the previous concert, wrapping up the Europe tour amidst the scenic backdrop of Austria. This performance is part of the Grafenegg Festival 2025, where Rudolf Buchbinder has served as Artistic Director since 2007.

Artists

Jaap van Zweden, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Jaap van Zweden, born in Amsterdam, began his distinguished musical career as the youngest-ever concertmaster of Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra at age 19. He transitioned to conducting in 1996 and has since become a prominent figure in the field. He served as the 26th Music Director of the New York Philharmonic from 2018 to 2024, and Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra from 2012 to 2024. In January 2024, he took on the role of Music Director of the Seoul Philharmonic and is set to begin as Music Director of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France Paris in September 2026.

The Jussen Brothers, piano [\[full description\]](#)

Lucas and Arthur Jussen are among the most sought-after piano duos of our time. Given their illustrious international careers, it is fair to say the Jussen brothers (born 1993 and 1996) are the Netherlands' pre-eminent ambassadors for classical music. With their energetic, almost symbiotic playing, their great refinement of sound, and gripping interpretations, they are praised vigorously by press and audiences alike. "It is like driving a pair of BMWs", exclaimed conductor Michael Schönwandt about the two pianists after directing them in concert.

Alexandre Kantorow, piano [\[full description\]](#)

Alexandre Kantorow is the winner of the 2024 Gilmore Artist Award, the youngest pianist and the first French artist to receive this accolade. In 2019, at the age of 22, he was the first French pianist to win the Gold Medal at the Tchaikovsky Competition, also receiving the Grand Prix, previously awarded only three times in the competition's history. Now in demand at the highest level worldwide, he is applauded for his innate poetic charm, luminous clarity, and stunning virtuosity.

Rudolf Buchbinder, piano [\[full description\]](#)

Rudolf Buchbinder is one of the legendary performers of our time. The authority of a career spanning 65 years is uniquely combined with esprit and spontaneity in his piano playing. Tradition and innovation, faithfulness and freedom, authenticity and open-mindedness merge in his reading of the great piano literature. Buchbinder is an honorary member of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Wien, the Wiener Konzerthausgesellschaft, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the first soloist to be awarded the Golden Badge of Honor by the Staatskapelle Dresden.

EUROPE TOUR

Het Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

30 | 8 | 2025

SAT 8PM

€79 €69 €59 €49 €39

www.concertgebouw.nl/en/concerts/8509520-hong-kong-philharmonic-orchestra-jaap-van-zweden-and-lucas-and-arthur-jussen

Programme

Daniel LO

Joey ROUKENS

RACHMANINOV

Asterismal Dance

Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra, *In Unison*

Symphony no. 2 in E minor

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#)

conductor

[The Jussen Brothers](#)

piano

Het Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

31 | 8 | 2025

SUN 8PM

€79 €69 €59 €49 €39

www.concertgebouw.nl/en/concerts/8509521-beethoven-wagner-and-rachmaninoff-with-jaap-van-zweden-and-alexandre-kantorow

Programme

WAGNER

RACHMANINOV

BEETHOVEN

Tannhäuser Overture

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini

Symphony no. 7 in A major

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#)

conductor

[Alexandre Kantorow](#)

piano

Kursaal, Merano, Italy

2 | 9 | 2025

TUE 8:30PM

€150 €120 €90 €60 €35

www.meranofestival.com/en/concerts/en-classic/hong-kong-philharmonic-orchestra

Programme

WAGNER

BEETHOVEN

BEETHOVEN

Tannhäuser Overture

Piano Concerto no. 3 in C minor

Symphony no. 7 in A major

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#)

conductor

[Rudolf Buchbinder](#)

piano

Wolkenturm, Grafenegg, Austria

5 | 9 | 2025

FRI 7PM

€172 €152 €130 €100 €85 €65 €40 €10

www.grafenegg.com/en/programme-tickets/hong-kong-philharmonic-orchestra/30314

Programme

WAGNER
BEETHOVEN
BEETHOVEN

Tannhäuser Overture
Piano Concerto no. 3 in C minor
Symphony no. 7 in A major

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#)
[Rudolf Buchbinder](#)

conductor
piano

[Download](#) press images



Jaap van Zweden
Photo: Eric Hong/HK Phil



The Jussen Brothers
Photo: Marco Borggreve



Alexandre Kantorow
Photo: Sasha Gusov



Rudolf Buchbinder
Photo: Marco Borggreve



HK Phil Europe Tour 2024
Photo: Desmond Chan/HK Phil



HK Phil Europe Tour 2024
Photo: Desmond Chan/HK Phil

--- END ---

For further press information please contact:

Dennis Wu, Director of Marketing

Tel: +852 2721 9035 Email: dennis.wu@hkphil.org

Emily Hui, Media Relations & Communications Manager

Tel: +852 2721 1585 Email: emily.hui@hkphil.org

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director Designate: Tarmo Peltokoski

Principal Guest Conductor: Long Yu

Resident Conductor: Lio Kuokman, JP

Composer-in-Residence: Esa-Pekka Salonen

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 is the HK Phil's Music Director Designate in 2025/26 and will become Music Director in the 2026/27 season. Currently, Long Yu serves as Principal Guest Conductor and Lio Kuokman is Resident Conductor. Esa-Pekka Salonen is Composer-in-Residence in the 2025/26 season.

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 collaborates with Deutsche Grammophon and is set to release Wagner's *The Ring: An Orchestral Adventure* arranged by Henk de Vlieger and conducted by Tarmo Peltokoski.

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 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The HK Phil toured Europe, Asia, and Mainland China, performing in 22 cities across ten countries in its 50th anniversary. In the 2025/26 season, the orchestra will perform in Europe, Japan, Korea and Mainland China again.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Anja Bihlmaier, Stéphane Denève, Christoph Eschenbach, Daniel Gatti, Daniel Harding, Pietari Inkinen, Paavo Järvi, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Vasily Petrenko, Joshua Bell, Ning Feng, Stephen Hough, Jonas Kaufmann, 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.

香港管弦協會有限公司 The Hong Kong Philharmonic Society Ltd

香港九龍尖沙咀香港文化中心行政大樓八樓

Level 8, Administration Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong

電話 Tel +852 2721 2030 傳真 Fax +852 2311 6229

www.hkphil.org