

PRESS RELEASE
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HK Phil Kicks Off 2025/26 Season with Daniel Harding, Paul Lewis, and Epic Film Music by James Horner

[18 August 2025, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is thrilled to announce the opening of its 2025/26 Season with a spectacular programme featuring renowned conductor Daniel Harding and acclaimed pianist Paul Lewis at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Before this exciting season kick-off, the HK Phil will celebrate with a pre-season programme dedicated to the epic movie music of legendary composer James Horner at the Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium.

Swire Denim Series: The Epic Movie Music of James Horner (12 & 13 September)



Join the HK Phil for a heartfelt tribute to James Horner, marking the 10th anniversary of his passing. Experience the sweeping melodies and cinematic brilliance that made him one of Hollywood's most beloved composers. A classically trained musician celebrated for his masterful orchestrations and memorable themes, Horner created some of Hollywood's most iconic soundtracks, spanning over 100 film scores, and garnering two Academy Awards, two Golden Globes, and numerous Oscar nominations.

Led by internationally acclaimed conductor Sir Dirk Brossé, this programme includes beloved scores from *The Rocketeer*, *Aliens*, *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*, *Avatar*, *Braveheart*, *Legends of the Fall*, *Krull*, *Sneakers* and *Titanic*. Multitalented, award-winning actress and vocalist Crisel Consunji will perform *All Love Can Be* from *A Beautiful Mind* and the timeless classic *My Heart Will Go On* from *Titanic*.

"Swire Denim Series: The Epic Movie Music of James Horner" will be held on 12 September 2025 (Fri) at 7:30PM and 13 September 2025 (Sat) at 3PM at the Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium. Tickets priced at HK\$420, \$320, \$220 and \$50 are available at URBIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Season Opening: Daniel Harding & Paul Lewis (18 & 19 September)



Currently the Music and Artistic Director of the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Daniel Harding will launch the HK Phil's new season with a captivating programme, featuring pianist Paul Lewis in Mozart's Piano Concerto no. 25. As one of the foremost interpreters of the Central European piano repertoire, Paul Lewis has received universal critical acclaim for his performances and recordings. The concert will open with Haydn's intense *La passione* symphony, infused with dark and violent emotion that captures the spirit of the *Sturm und Drang* movement.

The concert's second half highlights Richard Strauss's seventh tone poem *Don Quixote*, also known as "Fantastic Variations on a Theme of Knightly Character". With a prominent part for solo cello, it is often treated as a full-blown cello concerto, though the viola also plays a significant solo role alongside the cello. HK Phil Principals Andrew Ling and Richard Bamping step into the spotlight as Don Quixote and Sancho Panza, guiding the audience on a whimsical and poignant journey between dream and reality.

"Season Opening: Daniel Harding & Paul Lewis" will be held on 18 and 19 September 2025 (Thu & Fri) at 7:30PM at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$880, \$700, \$520 and \$380 are available at URBIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Artists

Dirk Brossé, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Sir Dirk Brossé, an internationally acclaimed conductor and award-winning composer, is currently Conductor-Emeritus of The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Artistic Director of Prima La Musica, and Music Director of The World Soundtrack Academy at Ghent Film Festival. In January 2024, he was appointed as Honorary Conductor of Sinfonietta Cracovia. He is also professor of composition and conducting at the School of Arts of the Royal Conservatory of Music at his hometown Ghent, Belgium.

Crisel Consunji, soprano [\[full description\]](#)

Crisel Consunji is an award-winning actress, singer, early childhood educator and entrepreneur. Known for her award-winning performance in the acclaimed 2018 Hong Kong film *Still Human* (HKFA Best New Performer winner, HKFA Best Actress nominee), Crisel's roots in the performing arts goes back to her childhood, as a musical stage actress for Repertory Philippines. In 2008, she moved to Hong Kong to work as a vocalist for Hong Kong Disneyland, and has since been acclaimed for her projects on stage, film and TV. Her recent headlined concerts include A Night at the Musicals with the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong (2021) and Disney Live in Concert (Hong Kong Disneyland, 2022).

Daniel Harding, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Daniel Harding is Music and Artistic Director of the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra. He was Music Director of the Orchestre de Paris from 2016-2019 and Principal Guest Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra from 2007-2017. He is honoured with the lifetime title of Conductor Laureate of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, with whom he has worked for over 20 years. In 2024 he took up the position of Music Director of the Youth Music Culture, The Greater Bay Area (YMCG) for a five-year term, and in 2024/25 begins his position of Music Director of the Orchestra and Chorus of the Academia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia.

Paul Lewis, piano [\[full description\]](#)

Paul Lewis is one of the foremost interpreters of the Central European piano repertoire, his performances and recordings of Beethoven and Schubert receiving universal critical acclaim. He was awarded CBE for his services to music, and the sincerity and depth of his musical approach have won him fans around the world.

Andrew Ling, viola [\[full description\]](#)

Hong Kong-native Andrew Ling is a concert violist and violinist, conductor, and music educator. Currently Principal Violist of the HK Phil, Andrew has garnered acclaim for his orchestral playing and solo recitals worldwide. His appearances as concert soloist have included the HK Phil, the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, and the China Film Orchestra.

Richard Bamping, cello [\[full description\]](#)

Richard Bamping has been the Principal Cellist of the HK Phil since 1993. He has performed with many of the finest musicians of recent history—Lord Yehudi Menuhin, Leonidas Kavakos, Mstislav Rostropovich, Carlo Maria Guilini, Valery Gergiev, Leonard Bernstein, Lorin Maazel, Sir Colin Davis and Claudio Abbado, to name but a few.

Swire Denim Series: The Epic Movie Music of James Horner

12 & 13 | 9 | 2025

FRI 7:30PM

SAT 3PM

Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium

HK\$420 \$320 \$220 \$50

Tickets now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Dirk Brossé](#)

conductor

[Crisel Consunji](#)

soprano

Programme

Film music composed by James Horner, including:

The Rocketeer: End Credits

Aliens Suite no.1: Main Title & Ripley's Rescue

Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan: Main Title

Avatar Suite

A Beautiful Mind: All Love Can Be

Braveheart: For the Love of a Princess

Legends of the Fall: Samuel's Death

Legends of the Fall: The Ludlows

Krull: Ride of the Firemares

Sneakers: And The Blind Shall See

Titanic: Distant Memories & Take Her to Sea, Mr. Murdoch

Titanic: My Heart Will Go On

[Download](#) press images



Dirk Brossé



Crisel Consunji



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo: Keith Hiro/HK Phil

Season Opening: Daniel Harding & Paul Lewis

18 & 19 | 9 | 2025

THU 7:30PM

FRI 7:30PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$880 \$700 \$520 \$380

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

Artist

[Daniel Harding](#)

conductor

[Paul Lewis](#)

piano

[Andrew Ling](#)

viola

[Richard Bamping](#)

cello

Programme

HAYDN

Sonata in D major, K. 381, for piano four hands

MOZART

Piano Concerto no. 25 in C major, K. 503

STRAUSS

Don Quixote, op. 35

[Download](#) press images



Daniel Harding

Photo: Julian Hargreaves



Paul Lewis

Photo: Kaupo Kikkas



Andrew Ling

Photo: Eric Hong/HK Phil



Richard Bamping

Photo: Michael Li Yam/HK Phil



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo: AUTUMN IN CHENGDU International Music Season

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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.

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