

PRESS RELEASE
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**Bernhard Fleischer Appointed Chief Executive of
The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**

[21 August 2025, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Society is delighted to announce the appointment of Bernhard Fleischer as its new Chief Executive, effective 1 September 2025.

Mr Fleischer is a collaborative and forward-thinking leader, with a wealth of experience and expertise in the classical music industry. Over the course of his 30-year career to date he has conceived and realised more than 350 recordings and documentary projects with internationally renowned artists, cultural institutions and media corporations. In his role as an entrepreneurial producer and consultant he has demonstrated both artistic and commercial expertise and cultivated industry-defining partnerships.

Born and raised in Salzburg, Mr Fleischer began his career working with Sir Roger Norrington. He has realised numerous projects at the Salzburg Festival with European and US performing arts organisations. In recent years, Mr Fleischer has repeatedly worked with Gustavo Dudamel, Lang Lang, John Williams, Anne-Sophie Mutter and Paavo Järvi, among many others. He is a multiple winner of the Golden Prague TV Festival as well as the German ECHO Klassik awards. Mr Fleischer is also a nominee for the Grimme-Preis and the Primetime Emmy Awards.

David Cogman, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the HK Phil, said: "We are very excited to welcome Bernhard as our new CE. He brings a wealth of experience and tremendous energy to the role. Together with our Music Director Designate Tarmo Peltokoski, we are confident that he will raise the orchestra to a new level."

Mr Fleischer stated: "I look forward to being part of such an exciting and vibrant orchestra. Our main goal will be to work on visionary programmes, nurture culturally diverse talents and develop new audiences in Hong Kong, in Mainland China and around the world. It is an honour and a privilege to work with the brilliant musicians, board and dedicated staff to shape and advance the orchestra's artistic future with Tarmo Peltokoski as its new Music Director."

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil), founded in 1947 as the Sino-British Orchestra, is now considered one of Asia's leading orchestras. In 2019, it became the first Asian orchestra to be named "Orchestra of the Year" by the prestigious British classical music magazine *Gramophone*.

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Bernhard Fleischer
Photo: Magdalena Lepka



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Photo: Magdalena Lepka

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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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