

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 26 August 2025

**Patrick Ren Appointed Deputy Chief Executive of
The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**

[26 August 2025, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Society is delighted to announce the appointment of Patrick Ren as its Deputy Chief Executive, effective October 2025.

Mr Ren is now Chief Executive Officer of China's National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) Orchestra. He joined NCPA in 2008 as its Executive Programming Director until 2016. From 2012, he became the Chief Executive Officer of the NCPA Orchestra. In 2018, he helped establish the Tianjin Juilliard School, where he served as Chief Public Affairs Officer.

After 17 years of his service at the NCPA, as a highly respected cultural and arts administrator, Mr Ren is widely viewed as an enthusiastic, visionary and deeply-trusted collaborator in the eyes of many musicians, orchestras, presenters, management companies and industrial partners both at home and internationally. As the NCPA's Executive Programming Director, he spent his time working together with renowned artists, ensembles and management companies from around the world, making significant contributions to the presentation and operation of its music programmes, and playing an essential role in many of the Centre's influential international exchange projects. In his role as the CEO of the NCPA Orchestra, he successfully grows the orchestra, only created 15 years ago, into an icon of the China's new generation of professional symphony orchestra, achieving remarkable accomplishments in artistic planning, institutional reform, international tours, and recording projects, establishing itself as a leading professional orchestra in China that has also earned international acclaim.

During the preparatory period of the 29th Olympic Games in Beijing from 2004 to 2008, Mr Ren worked in the Games' Department of Culture and Ceremonies, served in several roles including the Deputy Chief of Cultural Olympiad, where he was closely involved with the planning and execution process of the Olympic Cultural Festival, Olympic Music and Songs Competition, Media Operation of the Olympic Village etc. and gained extensive experience in the planning, execution and marketing of large-scale international events. By working together with influential composers, singers, producers and record companies, he also spearheaded the music creation, production, and recording distribution for the Beijing Olympics, leaving a timeless cultural legacy of renowned musical works. He also developed expertise in government operations, cultural policy assessment, and managing international cultural exchange initiatives during his tenure at China's Ministry of Culture.

Mr Ren graduated from Shandong University in 1998 as a B.S. of Information Management. In 2011, as a Chevening Scholar sponsored by the United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, he studied at the University of Warwick and graduated in 2012 as a M.A. of Creative & Media Enterprises.

David Cogman, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the HK Phil, said: "We are very delighted to have Patrick join us as Deputy CE. Patrick is a very experienced and successful manager with an excellent network in Mainland China and internationally, a deep understanding and passion for music, and a very strong track record building up the China NCPA orchestra. He is highly regarded by his many friends in the HK Phil, and we are very excited that he will be part of the orchestra's next chapter."

Bernhard Fleischer, Chief Executive Designate of the HK Phil, said: "I am excited that Patrick has decided to join our team. With his help to lead and with the determination of our staff, there is practically no limit of what we will be able to accomplish for this wonderful orchestra and its world-class musicians."

Mr Ren stated: "As a beacon where the West and East meet and work together, Hong Kong has fostered in the HK Phil a vision that is uniquely global and culturally inclusive. I am deeply honoured to be entrusted with the role of Deputy CE, and, together with Mr Bernhard Fleischer, I look forward to working together closely with the Board, the management team, and HK Phil's wonderful musicians. I firmly believe that the HK Phil—endowed with exceptional artistic prowess, rich multicultural roots, and a broad global perspective—will, through its renewed dedication to bridging East and West, forge a distinctive position on the world stage and usher in an exciting new chapter."

[Download](#) photo



Patrick Ren

--- 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