

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Internationally Acclaimed Pianist Behzod Abduraimov  
Reunites with the HK Phil for Belt and Road Concert**



**[15 September 2025, Hong Kong]** The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) welcomes the return of pianist Behzod Abduraimov in “Swire Proudly Sponsors: Belt & Road | Long Yu & Behzod Abduraimov”, a programme of Russian masterworks conducted by Principal Guest Conductor Long Yu. Praised for his “magic touch” (*The Times*), the internationally acclaimed Uzbek pianist made his debut with the HK Phil in 2015 presenting Rachmaninov’s Third Concerto. A decade later, he returns for his third collaboration with the orchestra, this time performing the composer’s much-loved Second Concerto.

HK Phil and Swire share a common vision of promoting Hong Kong as a global arts and culture hub. Sponsored by Swire for the second consecutive year, the Belt and Road concert aims to foster cultural exchange by presenting musicians and masterpieces from Belt-and-Road countries. The evening begins with Mussorgsky’s *Khovanshchina*: Dawn on the Moskva River, a prelude often performed as a standalone piece and a favourite concert opener. Unfolding with stillness and clarity, the piece paints a tranquil yet majestic vision of daybreak over the river, evoking both timeless natural beauty and the undercurrents of historical change. This poetic opening offers a moment of quiet reflection before the programme embarks on its wider emotional and historical journey.

The concert continues with one of the most celebrated works in the repertoire for piano and orchestra: Rachmaninov’s Second Piano Concerto. Its premiere in 1901, with the composer as the soloist, marked a significant turning point in his life and career after years of depression, and secured his reputation as one of the greatest Russian composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Abduraimov, who has performed with leading orchestras such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony and the Munich Philharmonic, brings to the performance his hallmark passion and virtuosity.

The programme concludes with Rimsky-Korsakov’s beloved *Scheherazade*, op. 35. Inspired by the *Tales of the Arabian Nights*, also known as *The 1001 Nights*, this richly coloured score tells stories from the ancient Arabic world, Persia, and India. A former sailor, Rimsky-Korsakov vividly captures seafaring adventures in musical notes. Under Long Yu’s baton, the HK Phil will guide the audience through a diverse palette of soundscapes and timeless storytelling, bringing this cross-cultural programme to a splendid close.

“Swire Proudly Sponsors: Belt & Road | Long Yu & Behzod Abduraimov” will be held on 27 September 2025 (Sat) at 5PM at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre 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).

Title Sponsor: Swire

Supporting Organisation: Belt and Road Office, Commerce and Economic Development Bureau of the Government of the HKSAR

The concert is one of the programmes of the Asia+ Festival 2025

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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.

### Behzod Abduraimov, piano [\[full description\]](#)

Behzod Abduraimov’s performances combine an immense depth of musicality with phenomenal technique and delicacy. He performs with many of the world’s leading orchestras and conductors, and his critically acclaimed recordings have set a new standard for the piano repertoire. Behzod has a number of notable debuts in the 2025/26 season including with the New York Philharmonic and National Symphony Orchestra (Washington, D.C.), both with Gianandrea Noseda. Other concerto performances include Houston and Pittsburgh Symphonies as well as Orchestra dell’Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Frankfurt Opern- und Museumsorchester and Hong Kong Philharmonic.

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## Swire Proudly Sponsors:

### Belt and Road | Long Yu & Behzod Abduraimov

27 | 9 | 2025

SAT 5PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

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

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

## Artists

[Long Yu](#)

conductor

[Behzod Abduraimov](#)

piano

## Programme

MUSSORGSKY

*Khovanshchina*: Dawn on the Moskva River

RACHMANINOV

Piano Concerto no. 2 in C minor, op. 18

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

*Scheherazade*, op. 35

[Download](#) press images



**Long Yu**  
Photo: Liu Hui



**Behzod Abduraimov**  
Photo: Evgeny Eutykhov



**Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**  
Photo: Ka Lam/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  
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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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.