

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Date: 18 December 2025**

## HK Phil Rings in the New Year with Viennese and Hungarian Flair



**[18 December 2025, Hong Kong]** The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) presents “New Year Celebration: Vienna of the Habsburg Dynasty,” titled sponsored by China Life (Overseas), on 29 & 30 December 2025. This year-end programme invites audiences to experience the charm and sophistication of Vienna, inspired by the glorious Habsburg era. Tickets are now available at [URBTIX](#).

This programme features waltzes, polkas and march by the “King of Waltz” Johann Strauss II and his family, alongside Brahms’s ever-popular Hungarian Dances and Liszt’s brilliant Hungarian Rhapsodies. Conductor Gergely Madaras, a native Hungarian who studied composition in Budapest and conducting in Vienna, will lead this jubilant musical journey bridging the two great capitals. His unique connection to the musical traditions of both capitals makes him the perfect guide for these evenings of elegance, joy, and charm. Joining him are distinguished Hungarian soloists Lajos Sárközy Jr. (violin), Rudolf Sárközy (double bass) and Jeno Lisztes (cimbalom), presenting a dazzling New Year celebration infused with Viennese elegance and Hungarian flair.

“China Life (Overseas) Proudly Sponsors: New Year Celebration | Vienna of the Habsburg Dynasty” will be held on 29 & 30 December 2025 (Mon & Tue) at 7:30PM at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$520, \$420, \$320 and \$220 are available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](http://hkphil.org).

Following the Hong Kong performances, the HK Phil will debut at the Bay Opera of Shenzhen Concert Hall on 3 January 2026 (Sat) at 2:30PM with the same programme. Tickets priced at RMB¥480, ¥280, ¥180 and ¥50 are available at [art-mate](#).

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### Artists

#### **Gergely Madaras, conductor** [\[full description\]](#)

Hungarian conductor Gergely Madaras was named 2025 “Conductor of the Year” at the Bartok Radio Awards. He served as Music Director of the Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège from 2019-2025 where his successful tenure was recently marked by him being named an Honorary Citizen of the City.

#### **Lajos Sárközy Jr., violin** [\[full description\]](#)

Lajos Sárközy is a Hungarian violinist celebrated for his ability to combine classical mastery with the rich traditions of Hungarian and Gypsy music. Coming from seven generations of musicians, he grew up immersed in music, developing a deep artistic sensitivity and exceptional technical skill. He regularly performs as a soloist across Europe and the United States and collaborates with world-class ensembles such as the Budapest Festival Orchestra and the Liszt Ferenc Chamber Orchestra.

**Rudolf Sárközy, double bass** [\[full description\]](#)

Rudolf Sárközy comes from a distinguished family of seven generations of musicians. He began studying the cello at the age of five, he later turned to the double bass, which became his true instrument of artistic expression. At only thirteen, he shared the stage with world-renowned artists, Mischa Maisky and Martha Argerich at the Mozarteum in Salzburg – a formative experience that shaped his musical path.

**Jeno Lisztes, cimbalom** [\[full description\]](#)

Jeno Lisztes was born in Budapest in 1986. He started playing the most famous Hungarian instrument, the cimbalom, at the age of four; and it has become his family tradition as his father and grandfather are cimbalom players too. He began his musical training under Ágnes Szakály at music school, followed by studies with Ilona Szeverényi Gerencsérné at the Franz Liszt Music Academy. He graduated in 2010, and became a cimbalom teacher and artist.

## China Life (Overseas) Proudly Sponsors: New Year Celebration | Vienna of the Habsburg Dynasty

29 & 30 | 12 | 2025

MON & TUE 7:30PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

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

Tickets now available at URBITIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Gergely Madaras](#)

conductor

[Lajos Sárközy Jr.](#)

violin

[Rudolf Sárközy](#)

double bass

[Jeno Lisztes](#)

cimbalom

### Programme

J STRAUSS II

*Die Fledermaus* Overture

LEHÁR

*Gold und Silber* Waltz, op. 79

BRAHMS

Hungarian Dance no. 1

J STRAUSS II

*Im Krapfenwald'l: Polka française*, op. 336

J STRAUSS II

*Annen-Polka*, op. 117

LISZT

Hungarian Rhapsody no. 1

BRAHMS

Hungarian Dance no. 5

LISZT

Hungarian Rhapsody no. 2

BRAHMS

Hungarian Dance no. 4

J STRAUSS II & JOSEF STRAUSS

*Pizzicato-Polka*, op. 234

JOSEF STRAUSS

*Die Libelle*, op. 204

J STRAUSS II

*The Blue Danube*, op. 314

J STRAUSS I

*Radetzky March*, op. 228

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**Gergely Madaras**  
Photo: Marco Borggreve



**Lajos Sárközy Jr.**  
Photo: Bekker Films



**Rudolf Sárközy**  
Photo: Bekker Films



**Jeno Lisztes**  
Photo: Domonkos Szakács



**Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**  
Photo: Keith Hiro/HK Phil

## New Year Celebration | Vienna of the Habsburg Dynasty

3 | 1 | 2026

SAT 2:30PM

Bay Opera of Shenzhen Opera Hall

RMB ¥480 ¥280 ¥180 ¥50

Tickets now available at [art-mate](http://art-mate)

### Artists

[Gergely Madaras](#) conductor

### Programme

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BRAHMS

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Gergely Madaras  
Photo: Marco Borggreve



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra  
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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 the Chinese Mainland. 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 the Chinese Mainland, 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 the Chinese Mainland 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.