

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 13 February 2026

HK Phil Fundraising Concert 2026 “Your Stage Awaits” Hong Kong’s Vibrant Music Community Joint Hands to Support the Orchestra

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[13 February 2026, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) hosted two fundraising concerts at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall on 7 & 8 February 2026 (Saturday & Sunday) successfully. Since 2009, the Fundraising Concert has brought together music lovers from diverse social backgrounds to showcase their talent on stage with the HK Phil, while raising funds for the orchestra’s long-term development, including education and outreach initiatives.

Led by HK Phil’s Resident Conductor Lio Kuokman, there were 24 performing units this year (in alphabetical order): Joseph Yourong Cai, Canadian International School of Hong Kong, Adele Chan, Charis Chan, Annette Che, Abraham Cheng, Dr Alex Chui Chuen-shun, John Foo, Grazioso Music Academy, HKBUAS Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School with members of the HK Phil Chorus, Hong Kong Harp Chamber Music, Hong Kong International School Upper Primary Onsom Orchestra, Seven Xiya Jing, Michelle Kwong, Yannis Lee, Freya Lei, Catherine Leung, Malvern College Hong Kong, St. Stephen’s Girl’s College Orchestra, Yumiao Wang, Yuxin Wang, and Stacey Dongbo Zhang.

Some highlights of the concerts were:

- The Fundraising Concert attracted a significant number of applicants and was held over two days. The HK Phil welcomed new performers and is grateful for the continued support from our returning performers, one of them includes Charis Chan, who made her debut in the fundraising concert at the age of 3 and has returned for her 11th appearance this year.
- A richly varied programme which includes classical masterpieces and a new composition, presented by solo vocalists, choirs, orchestral groups and an impressive array of instrumentalists from piano and strings to harp and marimba. Young musicians from institutions such as Grazioso Music Academy and Hong Kong Harp Chamber Music were also featured. HK Phil musicians opened the Fundraising Concerts with Glinka’s *Ruslan and Ludmila* Overture.
- Five student orchestral groups from Canadian International School of Hong Kong, HKBUAS Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School, Hong Kong International School, Malvern College Hong Kong and St. Stephen’s Girls’ College shared the stage with the esteemed members of the orchestra, made possible through rigorous guidance from HK Phil principals and conductor Lio Kuokman.
- Captivating vocal performances by young talents including Annette Che, Seven Xiya Jing, Michelle Kwong, as well as seasoned performers, Dr Alex Chui Chuen-shun and Co-chair of the Fundraising Concert Organising Committee Ms Catherine Leung.
- *Fisherman’s Song*, composed by Yannis Lee, an artist from the Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong, made its world premiere on stage with the HK Phil. The composition draws inspiration from the Dragon Boat Festival celebrated in Tai O Fishing Village and the vibrant tradition of Cantonese folk melodies. Yannis also took part in the performance as horn player. The performance was sponsored by the Swire Group Charitable Trust.
- An enchanting performance of Handel’s *Messiah: Worthy is the Lamb* was presented by the HKBUAS Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School, a joint performance of 20 members from the Secondary

Division Symphony Orchestra; 32 members from student chorus A-Singers; 8 members from teacher and parents chorus A-Parent Singers, along with 16 members from the HK Phil Chorus.

The HK Phil would like to give its heartfelt thanks to the Fundraising Concert Organising Committee 2026:

Co-Chairs

Ms Catherine Leung
Ms Elizabeth Lo

Honorary Advisor

Ms Angela Yau

Members

Mr Edmond Cheuk
Mrs Jacqueline Pun Leung

Artist

Lio Kuokman, JP, conductor [[full biography](#)]

Currently Resident Conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil), Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Macao Orchestra, Programme Director of the Macao International Music Festival, Chief Conductor of the RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Partner of the Kansai Philharmonic Orchestra, Lio Kuokman was praised by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as "a startling conducting talent". He was the second prize winner of the third Svetlanov International Conducting Competition in Paris with Audience Prize and Orchestra Prize, and he has served as the first Chinese Assistant Conductor with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Programme (in performance order)

7 FEB 2026 (Sat) 7:30pm

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra	GLINKA <i>Ruslan and Ludmila</i> Overture
Annette Che	HANDEL <i>Alcina</i> : Tornami a vagheggiar
Grazioso Music Academy	VIVALDI Violin Concerto no. 1 in E major, op. 8/1, RV 269, <i>Spring</i> : III. Danza pastorale: Allegro VIVALDI Violin Concerto no. 2 in G minor, op. 8/2, RV 315, <i>Summer</i> : III. Presto VIVALDI Violin Concerto no. 3 in F major, op. 8/3, RV 293, <i>Autumn</i> : III. Allegro VIVALDI Violin Concerto no. 4 in F minor, op. 8/4, RV 297, <i>Winter</i> : III. Allegro
Catherine Leung	DVORÁK <i>Rusalka</i> : Měsíčku na nebi hlubokém
Hong Kong International School Upper Primary Onsom Orchestra	Amilcare PONCHIELLI (arr. Richard MEYER) <i>La Gioconda</i> : Dance of the Hours
	Paul DUKAS (arr. Andrew BAILENT) <i>L'apprenti sorcier</i>
Yannis Lee	Yannis LEE <i>Fisherman's Song</i> (World Premiere)
Freya Lei	Édouard LALO <i>Symphonie espagnole</i> , op. 21: I. Allegro non troppo (excerpts)
Abraham Cheng	BRUCH <i>Kol Nidrei</i> , op. 47
Stacey Dongbo Zhang	BEETHOVEN Romance no. 2 in F major, op. 50 (excerpts)

John Foo	KABALEVSKY Violin Concerto in C major, op. 48: I. Allegro molto e con brio
Dr Alex Chui Chuen-shun	BOULANGER <i>My Prayer</i>
Joseph Yourong Cai	SHOSTAKOVICH Piano Concerto no. 2 in F major, op. 102: II. Andante & III. Allegro

8 FEB 2026 (Sun) 3pm

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra	GLINKA <i>Ruslan and Ludmila</i> Overture
St. Stephen's Girls' College Orchestra	ROSSINI <i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i> Overture
Seven Xiya Jing	STRAUSS II <i>Die Fledermaus</i> : Mein Herr Marquis
Michelle Kwong	Benj PASEK & Justin PAUL <i>Snow White</i> : Waiting On A Wish
Charis Chan	GOLOVKO Marimba Concerto: I. Untold Legends
Canadian International School of Hong Kong	BRITTEN <i>The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra</i> , op. 34 (excerpts)
Hong Kong Harp Chamber Music	BOIELDIEU Harp Concerto in C major, op. 82: III. Rondeau: Allegro agitato (excerpts)
Yuxin Wang & Yumiao Wang	HANDEL Concerto no. 6 in B flat major (version for harp and orchestra), op. 4/6, HWV 294: I. Andante allegro
Adele Chan & Abraham Cheng	VIVALDI Concerto for Two Cellos in G minor, RV 531
Malvern College Hong Kong	GRIEG Piano Concerto in A minor, op. 16: II. Adagio
HKBUAS Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School	HANDEL <i>Messiah</i> : Worthy is the Lamb

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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 20th 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 50th 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.

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