

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 25 June 2026

Tarmo Peltokoski Concludes HK Phil's 2025/26 Season with *A Sea Symphony*

[25 June 2026, Hong Kong] Tarmo Peltokoski, Music Director Designate of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil), returns to conclude HK Phil's 2025/26 season with Vaughan Williams's *A Sea Symphony* in July, featuring distinguished soloists and choruses. Following these landmark orchestral performances, Peltokoski will join soprano Chen Reiss for a lieder recital. Tickets are now on sale.

Season Finale: Tarmo Peltokoski Conducts Vaughan Williams's *A Sea Symphony* (3 & 4 July)



The Season Finale opens with HK Phil Composer-in-Residence Esa-Pekka Salonen's *Pollux*, the companion piece to *Castor*. Salonen's introspective *Pollux* is inspired by the mythological twin of the Gemini constellation. Next comes Vaughan Williams's expansive *A Sea Symphony*, which sets the poetry of Walt Whitman, charts a spiritual voyage across the ocean, with its themes of exploration and humanity. The HK Phil joins forces with soprano Chen Reiss, bass-baritone André Schuen, and more than 100 singers from the HK Phil Chorus, the State Choir LATVIJA, and Tenebrae, setting sail on a musical odyssey.

"Season Finale: Tarmo Peltokoski Conducts Vaughan Williams's *A Sea Symphony*" will be held on 3 July 2026 (Fri) at 7:30PM and 4 July 2026 (Sat) at 5PM at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$880, \$700, \$520 and \$380 are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

HK PHIL x HKU MUSE: Tarmo Peltokoski & Chen Reiss (5 July)



Tarmo Peltokoski performs at the piano with soprano Chen Reiss in a lieder recital. Reiss, praised as “a voice of silver brightness and clarity”, is one of today’s most admired interpreters of song. From Schumann’s tender *Frauenliebe und Leben*, Berg’s introspective *Sieben frühe Lieder*, to Mahler’s luminous *Rückert-Lieder*, the recital explores the full expressive range of German Lied.

“HK PHIL x HKU MUSE: Tarmo Peltokoski & Chen Reiss” will be held on 5 July 2026 (Sun) at 3PM at The Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre Grand Hall, The University of Hong Kong. Tickets priced at HK\$320 and \$220 are available at art-mate.net. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Co-presenter: HKU MUSE

Artists

Tarmo Peltokoski, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Finnish conductor Tarmo Peltokoski will become Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra in the 2026/27 season following his tenure as Music Director Designate in 2025/26. He currently serves as Music Director of the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, and as Principal Guest Conductor of both the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest. He is Conductor Laureate of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, where he held his first Music Director position from 2022 to 2025.

Chen Reiss, soprano [\[full description\]](#)

With “a voice of silver brightness and clarity” (*Bachtrack*) with “immaculately produced and enticing tone matched by superb musicianship” (*Opera News*), soprano Chen Reiss came to prominence as a member of the ensemble of the Bavarian State Opera and as resident artist at the Vienna State Opera.

Andrè Schuen, bass-baritone [\[full description\]](#)

Andrè Schuen, originally from the Ladin-speaking village of La Val in South Tyrol, grew up trilingual – speaking Ladin, Italian, and German – a linguistic richness reflected in the stylistic diversity of his repertoire, which spans from Italian bel canto and German Lieder to major roles in the operatic canon. After initial training as a cellist, he studied voice at the Mozarteum University Salzburg with Horiana Brănișteanu and Wolfgang Holzmair.

Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus [\[full description\]](#)

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus (HK Phil Chorus) has been delighting audiences since its inception in 1980. Over the years, it has showcased a diverse range of choral masterpieces in exclusive collaboration with the HK Phil. In 2013, the chorus launched an extensive recruitment campaign that attracted over 450 singers to audition. The newly formed ensemble made its debut with a performance of Handel’s *Messiah* and has gone on to sing major works by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Britten, Haydn and Mahler, under the direction of renowned conductors like Lorin Maazel, Jaap van Zweden and Nicholas McGegan. Notably, the Chorus’s Fellowship programme was inaugurated during the 2020/21 season, setting the stage for aspiring professional singers to join this distinguished ensemble.

State Choir LATVIJA, chorus [\[full description\]](#)

The State Choir LATVIJA is one of the most significant monuments of Latvian cultural life and history. The choir’s musical radiance is defined by the vocal culture and sound of the Latvian choral tradition, characterised by warmth, balance and precision. The State Choir LATVIJA is the largest professional choir in the Baltic States, and it is regularly in demand on the concert programmes of the world’s leading orchestras and conductors. Since 1997, the Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the choir has been Māris Sirmāis, while for the years 1997–2025 the choir’s General Manager has been Māris Ošlejs, followed by Sanda Katkeviča from November 2025.

Tenebrae, chorus [\[full description\]](#)

Described as “phenomenal” (*The Times*) and “devastatingly beautiful” (*Gramophone*), award-winning choir Tenebrae is one of the world’s leading vocal ensembles, renowned for its passion and precision. Under the direction of Nigel Short, Tenebrae performs at major festivals and venues across the globe, including the BBC Proms, Wigmore Hall, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Rheingau Musik Festival and Sydney Festival. The choir has earned international acclaim for its interpretations of choral works from the Renaissance through to contemporary masterpieces, and it regularly commissions new music.

**Season Finale:
Tarmo Peltokoski Conducts Vaughan Williams's A Sea Symphony**

3 & 4 | 7 | 2026

FRI 7:30PM & SAT 5PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$880 \$700 \$520 \$380

Tickets now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Tarmo Peltokoski](#)

conductor

[Chen Reiss](#)

soprano

[Andrè Schuen](#)

bass-baritone

[Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus](#)

chorus

[State Choir LATVIJA](#)

chorus

[Tenebrae](#)

chorus

Programme

SALONEN

Pollux

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

A Sea Symphony

[Download](#) press images



Tarmo Peltokoski

Photo: Peter Rigaud



Chen Reiss

Photo: Paul Marc Mitchell



Andrè Schuen

Photo: Guido Werner



Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus

Photo: Desmond Chan/HK Phil



State Choir LATVIJA

Photo: Girts Ragelis



Tenebrae

Photo: Sim Canetty-Clarke



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo: Keith Hiro/HK Phil

HK PHIL x HKU MUSE: Tarmo Peltokoski & Chen Reiss

5 | 7 | 2026

SUN 3PM

Grand Hall, The Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre, The University of Hong Kong

HK\$320 \$220

Tickets now available at art-mate.net

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Tarmo Peltokoski](#)

piano

[Chen Reiss](#)

soprano

Programme

SCHUMANN

Frauenliebe und Leben

BERG

Sieben frühe Lieder

MAHLER

Rückert-Lieder

[Download](#) press images



Tarmo Peltokoski

Photo: Peter
Rigaud



Chen Reiss

Photo: Paul Marc
Mitchell

--- 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.

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 releases its debut album on Deutsche Grammophon in March 2026, featuring Richard Wagner's *The Ring – An Orchestral Adventure* (arranged by Henk de Vlieger), conducted by Tarmo Peltokoski. This landmark collaboration with the world's most historic classical label marks a new chapter in the HK Phil's international recording profile.

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 2026/27 season, the orchestra will perform in Europe and the Chinese Mainland again.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Stéphane Denève, Christoph Eschenbach, Daniel Gatti, Daniel Harding, Pietari Inkinen, Paavo Järvi, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Vasily Petrenko, Emanuel Ax, Joshua Bell, Ning Feng, Mao Fujita, Jonas Kaufmann, Lang Lang, Leonidas Kavakos, Olivier Latry, Yo-Yo Ma, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Aristo Sham, 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.