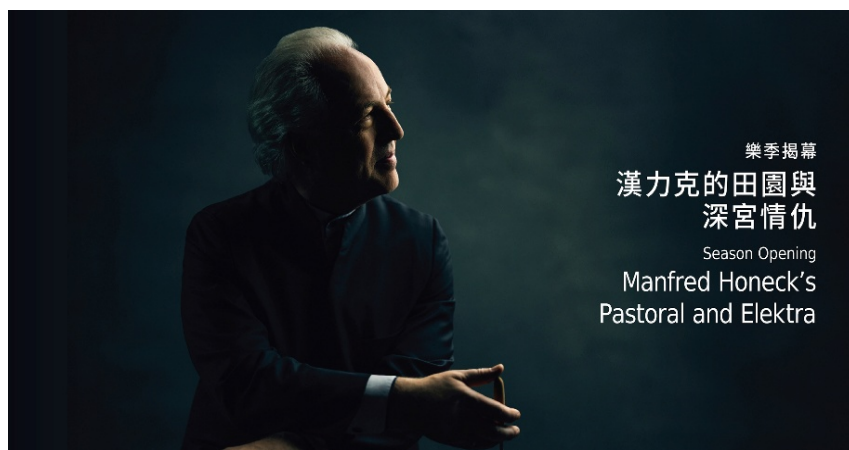


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**Manfred Honeck Opens HK Phil's 2026/27 Season
Yuan Ding and Zitong Wang Make HK Phil Debuts
in National Day and Belt and Road Concerts**

[7 September 2026, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is pleased to announce the return of world-renowned conductor Manfred Honeck for its 2026/27 season opening. In celebration of National Day and the Belt and Road Initiative, the HK Phil welcomes distinguished conductor Yuan Ding and award-winning pianist Zitong Wang, both making their HK Phil debuts. All performances will be held at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets are now available at URBTIX.

Season Opening: Manfred Honeck's Pastoral and Elektra (16 & 17 September)



Celebrated conductor Manfred Honeck returns to open the HK Phil's 2026/27 season with two starkly contrasting works.

The programme opens with Beethoven's *Pastoral* Symphony, a visionary work that opened new possibilities for symphonic music and gave it a vivid narrative voice. Honeck juxtaposes its evocation of Beethoven's love of nature with his own Suite from Strauss's *Elektra* co-arranged with Czech composer Tomáš Ille. Set against the backdrop of Mycenae in the years after the Trojan War, the Suite further distills the world of Elektra, Clytemnestra, and Orest through its music.

"Season Opening: Manfred Honeck's *Pastoral* and *Elektra*" will be held on 16 and 17 September 2026 (Wed & Thu) at 7:30PM at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$780, \$600, \$420 and \$340 are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

National Day Concert: Zitong Wang Plays Prokofiev (24 September)



Described by *Chopin Courier* as “one of the most captivating personalities”, Zitong Wang, Third Prize Winner of the 19th International Chopin Piano Competition, makes her HK Phil debut performing Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto no. 3.

Under the baton of Yuan Ding, Principal Resident Conductor of the China National Opera House, the concert opens with Chinese composer Yao Chen’s *Garden: Unearthing the Way Home*, a poetic soundscape inspired by the art of garden. The evening concludes with Rachmaninov’s First Symphony.

“National Day Concert: Zitong Wang Plays Prokofiev” will be held on 24 September 2026 (Thu) at 7:30PM 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.

Concert Sponsor: CMB Wing Lung Bank

Swire Proudly Sponsors: Belt and Road: Zitong Wang Plays Chopin (26 September)



HK Phil and Swire share a common vision of promoting Hong Kong as a global arts and culture hub. Sponsored by Swire for the third consecutive year, the Belt and Road concert aims to foster cultural exchange by presenting musicians and masterpieces from Belt-and-Road countries.

Award-winning pianist Zitong Wang brings Chopin's Andante spianato et Grande Polonaise brillante to the Belt and Road concert. The concert opens with Tchaikovsky's *Marche Slave*, a work infused with folk-inspired melodies and patriotic spirit. Yao Chen's *Garden: Unearthing the Way Home* follows, before Rachmaninov's First Symphony brings the evening to a close.

"Swire Proudly Sponsors: Belt and Road: Zitong Wang Plays Chopin" will be held on 26 September 2026 (Sat) at 5:00PM 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.

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 2026

Artists

Manfred Honeck, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Manfred Honeck is widely regarded as one of the world's leading conductors, renowned for his distinctive and revelatory interpretations that have garnered international acclaim. As Music Director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, where he is about to enter his 19th season, he continues to shape the orchestra's artistic identity with a deep sense of purpose and passion. His tenure, recently extended through the 2032/2033 season, has seen the orchestra flourish both artistically and as a cultural ambassador for the city of Pittsburgh. Celebrated at home and abroad, guest appearances under his leadership include Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, as well as the major venues of Europe and leading festivals such as the BBC Proms, Salzburg Festival, Musikfest Berlin, Lucerne Festival, Rheingau Music Festival, and Grafenegg Festival.

Yuan Ding, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Yuan Ding is Principal Conductor and Art Committee member of China National Opera House. As an acclaimed conductor, Yuan Ding has successfully conducted in recent years, MDR Leipzig Radio Symphony Orchestra, South Westphalia Philharmonic Orchestra, Oper Leipzig, West Sachsen Symphony Orchestra, Jenaer Philharmonie, the orchestra and chorus of Hochschule für Musik und Theater Leipzig, Korea National Opera. He has also maintained a long-term and fruitful cooperative relationship with the top domestic art groups including China National Symphony Orchestra and its Chorus, China NCPA Orchestra and its Chorus, National Ballet of China Symphony Orchestra, China National Opera and Dance Drama Theater, Beijing Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, Shanghai Opera House and Macao Orchestra.

Zitong Wang, pianist [\[full description\]](#)

Zitong Wang's authenticity, bravura and sensitivity have enchanted audiences over the years, particularly so at the 19th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition (2025) where she claimed the Bronze Medal and the Krystian Zimerman Award for Best Performance of a Sonata. In her most recent seasons, she has taken the stage of prestigious venues, including the Berlin Philharmonie, Munich Prinzregententheater, Warsaw Philharmonic, Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre, Seoul Arts Center, National Centre for the Performing Arts (Beijing), Polish Baltic Philharmonic

in Gdańsk and the Shanghai Symphony Hall, among others, where her performances won ardent reception.

Season Opening: Manfred Honeck's Pastoral and Elektra

16 & 17 | 9 | 2026

WED & THU 7:30PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$780 \$600 \$420 \$340

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Manfred Honeck](#)

conductor

Programme

BEETHOVEN

Symphony no. 6 in F major, op. 68, *Pastoral*

STRAUSS

Elektra Suite

(arr. HONECK & ILLE)

[Download press images](#)



Manfred Honeck

Photo: Todd Rosenberg



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo: Desmond Chan/HK Phil

National Day Concert: Zitong Wang Plays Prokofiev

24 | 9 | 2026

THU 7:30PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

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

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Yuan Ding](#)

conductor

[Zitong Wang](#)

piano

Programme

YAO Chen

Garden: Unearthing the Way Home

PROKOFIEV

Piano Concerto no. 3 in C major, op. 26

RACHMANINOV

Symphony no. 1 in D minor, op. 13

Swire Proudly Sponsors: Belt and Road: Zitong Wang Plays Chopin

26 | 9 | 2026

SAT 5:00PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

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

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Yuan Ding](#)

conductor

[Zitong Wang](#)

piano

Programme

TCHAIKOVSKY

Marche Slave, op. 31

YAO Chen

Garden: Unearthing the Way Home

CHOPIN

Andante spianato et Grande Polonaise brillante, op. 22

RACHMANINOV

Symphony no. 1 in D minor, op. 13

[Download press images](#)



Yuan Ding



Zitong Wang



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo: Desmond Chan/HK Phil

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Tarmo Peltokoski

Principal Guest Conductor: Long Yu

Resident Conductor: Lio Kuokman, JP

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 starts his tenure as Music Director in the 2026/27 season. Currently, Long Yu serves as Principal Guest Conductor and Lio Kuokman is Resident Conductor.

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 Vlieter), 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.