

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 5 October 2026

**Tarmo Peltokoski to Headline HK Phil's Spectacular
Swire Symphony Under The Stars in November**
Ticket Ballot Opens 16 October



[5 October 2026, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is excited to announce the return of its beloved free annual outdoor mega-concert, *Swire Symphony Under The Stars* on 13 November 2026 (Fri) at Central Harbourfront. For the first time, HK Phil Music Director Tarmo Peltokoski will take the helm, leading an enchanting evening of eclectic music for families and friends to enjoy together. Tickets will be available to the public for free through an online ballot system from 16 October 2026 (Fri).

During the evening, Peltokoski and Van Cliburn Gold Medal winner Aristo Sham will join forces on two pianos for Saint-Saëns's playful *Carnival of the Animals*, while HK Phil Principal Clarinet Andrew Simon and vocalist Talie Monin will perform some Gershwin favourites. Following John Williams's *Star Wars Suite*, Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* will arrive with fireworks in the much-anticipated finale to this beloved event. Mayanne Mak returns as the presenter to guide the musical journey.

Online registration for the ticket ballot will be available at suts.hkphil.org/reg from 10AM on 16 October (Fri) to 7PM on 20 October (Tue). The results of the ballot will be published on the same website on 23 October (Fri). Each successful applicant will receive an email notification.

The performance will also be streamed live on the [HK Phil website](#), [Facebook page](#), [YouTube channel](#), and [WeChat Channel](#), as well as the [SwireThrive](#) and [Swire Pacific](#) Facebook pages. It will also be broadcast live on RTHK TV31, [RTHK website](#) and [CCTV.com](#).

The HK Phil wishes to express its deepest gratitude to the Swire Group, whose steadfast support as Principal Patron since 2006 remains the cornerstone of the orchestra's growth. Through this shared vision of artistic excellence and community engagement, the HK Phil

continues to bring the finest classical music to audiences in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and across the globe.

Join the HK Phil for an exceptional evening of music, perfect for family and friends.

Online Registration for Ticket Ballot

Members of the public can register for the ticket ballot and apply for up to four tickets on the *Swire Symphony Under The Stars* webpage suts.hkphil.org/reg from 10AM on 16 October (Fri) to 7PM on 20 October (Tue) at 7PM. Registrants must provide their name, a valid email address and mobile number.

Each person may submit only one ballot. If duplicate registrations are found, the system will process only the latest entry. All registrations submitted during the online registration period have an equal chance of being selected. Successful registrants will receive a confirmation email with a registration reference number.

Ballot Result Announcement

The ballot result listed with the registration reference number will be announced on suts.hkphil.org/reg on 23 October (Fri). Successful applicants will receive a notification and their e-tickets via email. For admission, they can either show the QR codes on the e-tickets using their smartphones or present printed copies of their tickets.

ABOUT SWIRE SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS

Date:	13 November 2026 (Fri), 7:30PM (with an intermission) Gates open at 6PM
Venue:	Central Harbourfront
Admission:	Free Ticket ballot registration from 10AM on 16 October (Fri) to 7PM on 20 October (Tue)
Seating Arrangement:	Free seating
Reminder:	Bring your own mat, food and drinks to enjoy over the course of the evening. For security reasons no glassware is allowed in the venue, including bottles, containers and glasses.

Live Streaming Platforms:

- [HK Phil website](#), [Facebook page](#), [YouTube channel](#), [WeChat Channel](#)
- [SwireThrive Facebook page](#)
- [Swire Pacific Facebook page](#)
- [RTHK website](#)
- [CCTV.com](#)

Principal Patron: Swire

Tourism Promotion Partner: Hong Kong Tourism Board

Media Partner: RTHK

Live TV Broadcast: RTHK TV31

Programme

WAGNER	<i>Lohengrin</i> : Prelude to Act III
GERSHWIN	<i>It Ain't Necessarily So</i>
GERSHWIN	<i>I Got Rhythm</i>
GERSHWIN	Variations on <i>I Got Rhythm</i>
YAO Chen	<i>Waltz of the Rolling Giants</i>
SAINT-SAËNS	<i>The Carnival of the Animals</i>
John WILLIAMS	<i>Star Wars Suite</i>
TCHAIKOVSKY	<i>1812 Overture</i> : Finale

Trade Promotion Competition Licence No.: 061962

Artists

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

In the 2026/27 season, Finnish conductor Tarmo Peltokoski begins his tenure as Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, having served as Music Director Designate in the preceding season. He also serves as Music Director of the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse as well as Principal Guest Conductor of the Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest. He is continuing his three-year residency as “Exklusivkünstler” at Konzerthaus Dortmund, which began in the 2025/26 season. He has been Principal Guest Conductor of The Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen since 2022. Highlights of the 2026/27 season include his highly anticipated debut at the Bayreuther Festspiele with a new production of *Lohengrin* (July/August 2027) as well as a new production of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, which opened the 2026/27 season at Zurich Opera.

Andrew Simon, clarinet [\[full description\]](#)

Boasting a distinguished career spanning over three decades, New York-born clarinetist Andrew Simon has appeared as soloist and guest lecturer on four continents. As Principal Clarinet of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (since 1988), Simon has recorded solo works by Baermann and Stravinsky and has performed concerti over 70 times, including John Corigliano's Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra which he studied with the Academy Award-winning composer.

Talie Monin, vocal [\[full description\]](#)

South African-born Talie Monin is an international jazz songstress, who has gracefully swayed onto global stages with her sweet, idyllic tone of voice, unique delivery and her vast knowledge of international jazz standards. Talie made the decision to move to Paris earlier on in her life where she pursued vocal training at the American School of Modern Music. She then went on to attend the renowned Sarah Lazarus Vocal Atelier at the Bill Evans Piano Academy, eventually making her way to Hong Kong where she continues to fortify her presence as a jazz performer.

Aristo Sham, piano [\[full description\]](#)

Pianist Aristo Sham exudes astounding intellect and a deep emotional resonance; a cultivated sophistication and an immediately engaging presence; a penchant to take on the great monuments of the piano repertoire and a natural, infectious spontaneity. This makeup is fuelled by a fascination with the world and its rich cultures: he was an international prodigy, is a voracious student of wide-ranging interests, and currently splits his time between three continents. At the 2025 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Aristo found his breakthrough moment, taking home both the gold medal and the audience award.

[Download](#) press images



Tarmo Peltokoski
Photo: Peter Rigaud



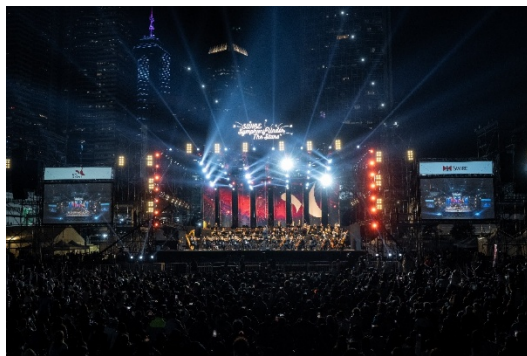
Andrew Simon
Photo: Eric Hong/ HK Phil



Talie Monin



Aristo Sham
Photo:
Lisa-Marie Mazzucco



Swire Symphony Under The Stars 2025
at the Central Harbourfront
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 released 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.