港樂
HKPhil

貝托祺 音樂總監
Tarmo Peltokoski Music Director

PRESS RELEASE
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Date: 4 November 2026

A One-Night-Only Spectacular: Cello Master Yo-Yo Ma Performs Elgar with the HK Phil in January 2027



[4 November 2026, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) welcomes the return of world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma for a one-night-only performance. Led by the HK Phil's Principal Guest Conductor Long Yu, the evening presents an East-meets-West programme of masterpieces.

The evening centres on Elgar's Cello Concerto, widely regarded as one of the greatest works in the cello repertoire. A 20-time Grammy Award winner, Yo-Yo Ma most recently won this year's Best Classical Instrumental Solo award for his Deutsche Grammophon recording of Shostakovich's complete cello concertos. He has recorded more than 120 albums, ranging from iconic interpretations of the Western classical canon to recordings that defy categorisation. Beyond the concert stage, he is celebrated for stretching the boundaries of genre and tradition, exploring how music can help us imagine and build a better future.

Complementing the concerto, Long Yu will lead the orchestra in a programme bringing together music from China and Britain. It includes Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance* March no. 1, whose melody later became *Land of Hope and Glory*, a beloved fixture of the BBC Proms, and Vaughan Williams's *English Folk Song Suite*. Having studied under Olivier Messiaen in his youth, Chen Qigang drew on traditional Peking Opera elements and Western orchestral techniques to create *Instants d'un Opéra de Pékin*, a vivid work inspired by the colours and expressive gestures of Peking Opera.

香港管弦協會 The Hong Kong Philharmonic Society Ltd.
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余隆 首席客席指揮
Long Yu Principal Guest Conductor
廖國敏 JP 駐團指揮
Lio Kuokman, JP Resident Conductor

"Standard Chartered Global Private Bank Proudly Sponsors: Yo-Yo Ma Plays Elgar" will be held on 25 January 2027 (Mon) at 7:30PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at $2,080, $1,480, $880 and $680 will be sold via a real-name registration ballot ticketing arrangement. Online registration for the ballot will be accepted from 30 November 2026 (Mon) to 1 December 2026 (Tue) at URBTIX. Further details will be announced on the URBTIX website.

Exclusive Title Sponsor: Standard Chartered Global Private Bank

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Artists

Long Yu, conductor [full description]

Hailed by *The New York Times* as "the most powerful figure in China's classical music scene", the conductor and impresario Long Yu has devoted his illustrious career to steering China's growing connection to classical music. Maestro Yu currently holds the top position in the country's most prominent orchestras: Artistic Director of the China Philharmonic Orchestra, in Beijing, and Music Director of the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra. He is also the Principal Guest Conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, co-director of Shanghai's Music in the Summer Air festival, and Chair of the Artistic Committee of the Beijing Music Festival and the League of China Orchestras.

Yo-Yo Ma, cello [full description]

Yo-Yo Ma's multi-faceted career is testament to his belief in culture's power to generate trust and understanding. Whether performing new or familiar works for cello, bringing us together to explore culture's role in society, or engaging unexpected musical forms, Yo-Yo Ma seeks to foster connections that reinforce our humanity. He and his creative team at Sound Postings collaborate with partners around the globe to develop and produce initiatives that advocate for a world guided by humanity, curiosity, and connection. Their recent projects include a six-continent tour of Bach's cello suites exploring how culture strengthens communities today, and Our Common Nature, a journey celebrating the ways that culture can reconnect us to the natural world.

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Standard Chartered Global Private Bank Proudly Sponsors:
Yo-Yo Ma Plays Elgar

25 | 1 | 2027
MON 7:30PM
Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall
HK$2,080 $1,480 $880 $680
Online ballot registration from 30 Nov 2026 (Mon) to 1 Dec 2026 (Tue) at URBTIX
For ages 6 and above

Artists

Long Yu	Conductor
Yo-Yo Ma	Cello

Programme

ELGAR	*Pomp and Circumstance* March no. 1, op. 39/1
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS	*English Folk Song Suite*
CHEN Qigang	*Instants d'un Opéra de Pékin*
ELGAR	Cello Concerto in E minor, op. 85

Download press images



Long Yu
Photo: Liu Hui



Yo-Yo Ma
Photo: Brantley Gutierrez



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo: Keith Hiro/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 collaborated with Deutsche Grammophon and released 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 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, Daniele 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.

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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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