貝托祺 音樂總監
Tarmo Peltokoski Music Director

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 16 November 2026

Tarmo Peltokoski Leads HK Phil's Annual Outdoor Event Swire *Symphony Under the Stars* Attracts Nearly 10,000 Music Lovers to Central Harbourfront



[16 November 2026, Hong Kong] Under the baton of its Music Director Tarmo Peltokoski, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) successfully concluded its beloved free annual outdoor mega-concert, Swire *Symphony Under the Stars* on 14 November 2026. The event drew nearly 10,000 music lovers to the Central Harbourfront.

During the evening, Peltokoski and Van Cliburn Gold Medal winner Aristo Sham joined forces on two pianos for Saint-Saëns's playful *Carnival of the Animals*. Aristo Sham and the orchestra also performed Yao Chen's *Waltz of the Rolling Giants*, a new HK Phil commission inspired by the giant pandas. HK Phil Principal Clarinet Andrew Simon and vocalist Talie Monin performed some Gershwin favourites. The orchestra brought cinematic grandeur to the harbourfront with John Williams's iconic *Star Wars* Suite. In keeping with tradition, the evening reached its climax with Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, accompanied by a spectacular fireworks display. Mayanne Mak returned as the presenter to guide the musical journey.

The HK Phil extends its deepest gratitude for the generous and continued support from Swire, its Principal Patron since 2006, as well as to the music lovers who have supported the Swire *Symphony Under the Stars* year after year. Working in partnership with Swire, the HK Phil will continue to spread the joy of classical music beyond the concert halls and into the wider community.

With live-streamed video accessible worldwide, Swire *Symphony Under the Stars* reached a wider audience beyond the concert venue. The live-streamed video remains available globally

on the HK Phil WeChat channel and CCTV.com, and will be available on the HK Phil website and YouTube channel.

Watch the concert again on:

- HK Phil website, YouTube channel, WeChat channel
- CCTV.com

Principal Patron: Swire

Tourism Promotion Partner: Hong Kong Tourism Board

Media Partner: RTHK

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Download press images
(photo: HK Phil)



1. Music Director and conductor Tarmo Peltokoski



2. HK Phil Principal Clarinet Andrew Simon



3. Vocalist Talie Monin



4. Pianist Aristo Sham



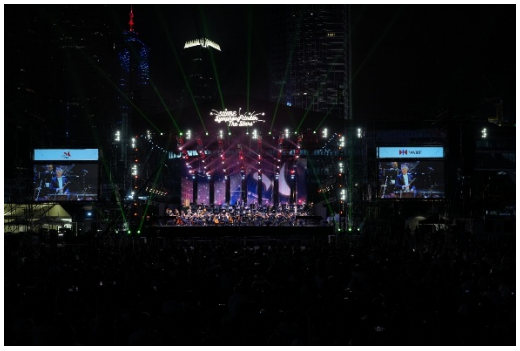
5. Tarmo Peltokoski and Aristo Sham join forces on two pianos



6. Presenter Mayanne Mak



7. (from left)
    - Ms May Lam, Director, Group Public Affairs, John Swire & Sons (H.K.) Limited
    - Mr Augustus Tang, Director, John Swire & Sons (H.K.) Limited
    - Mr Tim Blackburn, Chief Executive, Swire Properties
    - Ms Vivian Sum, Permanent Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism
    - Miss Rosanna Law, Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism
    - Ms Winnie Tam, Vice-Chairman of the HK Phil
    - Mr Bernhard Fleischer, Chief Executive of the HK Phil
    - Mr Patrick Ren, Deputy Chief Executive of the HK Phil
    - Mr Xie Litao, Division Director, Department of Publicity, Cultural and Sports Affairs, Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR



8. Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra



9. The evening reaches its climax with Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture,* accompanied by a spectacular fireworks display.

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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 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, 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.

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.