

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 28 SEPTEMBER 2012

### **Hong Kong Philharmonic's New Music Director Jaap van Zweden Leads the Orchestra and Violinist Ning Feng in His Inaugural Concert**

Opening Performance Sponsored by Sunwah Group

29 September Performance Sponsored by Wing Lung Bank

[28 September 2012, Hong Kong] Hong Kong Philharmonic (HK Phil) welcomed new Music Director **Jaap van Zweden** who performed in his inaugural concert with the HK Phil tonight (28 Sept). It marked not only a new era for the HK Phil with its new Music Director and a new brand, but also the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. Tonight's concert was sponsored by Sunwah Group and the 29 September performance is sponsored by Wing Lung Bank.

The World Première of Conrad Tao's *Pangu*, commissioned by the HKPO, marked the beginning of Maestro van Zweden's directorship. Acclaimed violinist Ning Feng dazzled the capacity audience with the *Butterfly Lovers* Violin Concerto, and the concert concluded with Beethoven's Symphony No.7.

Before the concert an opening ceremony and cocktail reception took place officiated by Guest of Honour, **Mr Tsang Tak Sing**, Secretary for Home Affairs. Other officiating guests included **Maestro Jaap van Zweden**, **Mr Y.S. Liu**, Chairman of the Board of Governors, HKPO, **Dr Jonathan Choi**, Chairman of Sunwah Group, **Mrs Janice Choi**, Chairperson of the Fundraising Committee, HKPO, **Mr Yang Jian-ping**, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in HKSAR, **Mr Hong Xiao-yong**, Deputy Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in HKSAR and **Mr Peter Kilgour**, Group Finance Director of Swire Pacific Limited.

Many of the city's luminaries joined the celebration including **Mr Paul Chan**, Secretary of Development, **Ms Elsie Leung Oi-sie**, former Secretary for Justice, **Mr Tam Chi Yuen**, Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, **Mr Simon Y.L. Peh**, Commissioner of ICAC, **Mr Cheung Chi-kong**, Non-Official

Members of Executive Council, **Mr David Chiu, Mrs Eleanor Morris, Ms Anita Tang** and many more.

Concert Programme

**CONRAD TAO** *Pangu* (World Première, HK Phil Commission)

**HE / CHEN** *Butterfly Lovers* Violin Concerto

**BEETHOVEN** Symphony No.7

Media Photos (please click the thumbnail to download the images)

01 Mr Y.S. Liu delivers the Welcoming Speech (Photo: Cheung Chi-wai)



02 Dr Jonathan Choi delivers his speech (Photo: Keith Hiro)



03 (From the left) Mrs Janice Choi, Mr Hong Xiao-yong, Mr Yang Jian-ping, Dr Jonathan Choi, Mr Y.S. Liu, Mr Tsang Tak Sing, Maestro Jaap van Zweden and Mr Peter Kilgour (Photo: Cheung Chi-wai)



04 (From the left) Mrs Janice Choi, Mr Hong Xiao-yong, Mr Yang Jian-ping, Dr Jonathan Choi, Mr Y.S. Liu, Mr Tsang Tak Sing, Maestro Jaap van Zweden and Mr Peter Kilgour (Photo: Keith Hiro)



05 Maestro Jaap van Zweden leads the HK Phil and violinist Ning Feng in *Butterfly Lovers* Violin Concerto (Photo: Keith Hiro)



06 (From the left) Mr Hong Xiao-yong, Dr Jonathan Choi, Mr John Tsang, Mr Tsang Tak Sing and Mrs Janice Choi (Photo: Cheung Chi-wai)



07 Maestro Jaap van Zweden and the Hong Kong Philharmonic (Photo: Cheung Chi-wai)



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## Hong Kong Philharmonic

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

The Hong Kong Philharmonic (HK Phil) is one of Asia's leading orchestras. Enriching Hong Kong's cultural life for over a century, the HK Phil has grown into a formidable ensemble of Chinese and international talents, attracting world-class artists to collaborate on its stage. From the 2012/13 season, Jaap van Zweden has become Music Director of the orchestra. Under his leadership, the HK Phil will continue to develop its reputation for artistic excellence.

From April 2006, The Swire Group Charitable Trust became the HK Phil's Principal Patron. Swire's sponsorship, the largest in the ensemble's history, supports artistic growth and development as the HK Phil takes its place on the world stage, and brings performances of musical excellence to the widest possible public.

The HK Phil annually touches the lives of over 200,000 music lovers through more than 150 performances including its extensive education activities for children and adults alike, and free concerts such as the popular Swire Symphony under the Stars, and regular broadcasts and telecasts, bringing the joy of classical music to the Hong Kong community. Outside of Hong Kong, the HK Phil has made a number of critically acclaimed tours in Asia and Europe.

The Hong Kong Philharmonic is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic

The Hong Kong Philharmonic is a Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre