

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 16 September 2019

HK Phil & Principal Guest Conductor Yu Long in Shostakovich Symphony no. 5 (19 & 20 September)

Featuring cellist Li-Wei Qin in Chen Qigang's *Reflet d'un temps disparu* for cello and orchestra

[16 September 2019, Hong Kong] After two weeks with Music Director Jaap van Zweden, Principal Guest Conductor [Yu Long](#) takes up the baton and leads the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** in Shostakovich's Symphony no. 5. Cellist [Li-Wei Qin](#) teams up with the orchestra in Chen Qigang's folk-song inspired cello concerto - *Reflet d'un temps disparu* for cello and orchestra. Two performances on **19 & 20 September (Thursday & Friday)** at the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**.

"[Li-Wei Qin's *Reflet d'un temps disparu*] There was no doubting Li-Wei's sensitive, virtuosic and beautifully toned performance..."

--- *The Classical Source*

"To the precious early experiences of life: childhood, first love, first vocation, and so on, a time which reflects the spiritual harmony between humanity and nature", Chinese composer Chen Qigang reveals his very personal feelings in his "Reflections on a Lost Time" (*Reflet d'un temps disparu*) for cello and orchestra. Principal Guest Conductor Yu Long relives his previous collaboration with Cellist Qin Li-wei in this piece in 2013, but this time, leading the Hong Kong audience on an intimate journey with Chen Qigang.

The concert will end with one of the 20th century's most inspiring and heroic scores, Shostakovich Symphony no. 5. Shostakovich declared that the "theme of my symphony is the making of man", and his struggle and triumph has been successfully expressed in this powerful work.

19 Sep performance is sponsored by: Sunwah Kingsway

20 Sep performance is sponsored by: CMB Wing Lung Bank

Holidays & Pops: A National Day Concert YU LONG | Shostakovich 5 will be held on **19 & 20 September (Thu & Fri), 8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets are HK\$480, \$380, \$280, \$180 and are available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Artists

Yu Long, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

Hailed as the “most powerful figure in China’s classical music scene” by The New York Times, Chinese conductor Long Yu holds positions as Chairman of the Artistic Committee of the Beijing Music Festival (BMF), Artist Director of the China Philharmonic Orchestra, Music Director of the Shanghai and Guangzhou Symphony orchestras, Co-director of MISA Shanghai Summer Festival, and Principal Guest Conductor of the HK Phil.

Li-Wei Qin, cello [\[full biography\]](#)

Li-Wei Qin was awarded the Silver Medal at the 11th Tchaikovsky International Competition and First Prize in the prestigious 2001 Naumburg Competition in New York. He has twice been a soloist at the BBC Proms and enjoyed successful artistic collaborations with many of the world’s great orchestras. In recital and chamber music he is a regular guest at the Wigmore Hall and the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society, New York. His recordings on Universal Music/Decca include the complete Beethoven Sonatas, music by Rachmaninov with pianist Albert Tiu, Dvořák Concerto with Singapore Symphony Orchestra, and Elgar/Walton Concerti with the London Philharmonic. In 2014, courtesy of Universal Music, Qin’s 2013 live concert with the Shanghai Symphony and Maestro Yu Long has been released on Sony Classical.

HOLIDAYS & POPS: A NATIONAL DAY CONCERT YU LONG | SHOSTAKOVICH 5

19 & 20 | 9 | 2019

THU & FRI 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK \$480 \$380 \$280 \$180

Tickets are now available at URBTIX.

For ages 6 and above

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20 Sep performance is sponsored by: CMB Wing Lung Bank

Artists

[Yu Long](#)

conductor

[Li-Wei Qin](#)

cello

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Yu Long

Photo Credit: Ka Lam/HK Phil



Li-Wei Qin



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-wai/HK Phil

Programme

CHEN Qigang *Reflet d'un temps disparu* for Cello and Orchestra

SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony no. 5

And more

Change of Programme & Artist

"A National Day Concert" (19 & 20 SEP 2019) programme will have the above changes. The NCPA Chorus will not perform in this concert. Cellist Li-Wei Qin will be the soloist, while the conductor remains unchanged. (12:00, 14 August 2019)

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

Principal Guest Conductor: Yu Long

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is recognised as Asia's foremost classical orchestra. Presenting more than 150 concerts over a 44-week season, the HK Phil attracts more than 200,000 music lovers annually. Recently the HK Phil has been nominated for the prestigious UK classical music magazine *Gramophone's* 2019 Orchestra of the Year Award – the first orchestra in Asia to receive this nomination.

Jaap van Zweden, one of today's most sought-after conductors, has been the orchestra's Music Director since the 2012/13 concert season, a position he will continue to hold until at least 2022. Maestro van Zweden is also Music Director of the New York Philharmonic since the 2018/19 season.

Yu Long has been Principal Guest Conductor since the 2015/16 season.

Under the dynamic leadership of Music Director Jaap van Zweden, the HK Phil has attained new heights of artistic excellence, garnering international critical acclaim.

Following on from the success of the European tour which included a filmed concert from Vienna's Musikverein, the HK Phil has toured extensively across the Mainland China. In 2017, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, and with support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, the orchestra performed in Seoul, Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne and at the Sydney Opera House.

Jaap, the HK Phil, a superb cast of soloists and a chorus successfully completed an epic four-year journey through Wagner's "Ring Cycle" in January 2018. The concert performances and live Naxos recordings have been enthusiastically received by audiences and praised by critics at home and abroad. The recording of *Götterdämmerung* was released in November 2018.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Joshua Bell, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, Matthias Goerne, Stephen Hough, Evgeny Kissin, Lang Lang, Yo-Yo Ma, Ning Feng, Leonard Slatkin and Yuja Wang.

The HK Phil promotes the work of Hong Kong and Chinese composers through an active commissioning programme, and has released recordings on the Naxos label featuring Tan Dun and Bright Sheng, each conducting their own compositions. Its acclaimed education and community engagement programmes in schools, hospital and outdoor space, bring 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 sponsorship, which is the largest in the orchestra's history, Swire endeavours to promote artistic excellence, foster access to classical music and stimulate cultural participation in Hong Kong, and to enhance Hong Kong's reputation as one of the great cities in the world.

Thanks to a significant subsidy from the Hong Kong Government 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, among others, Opera Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Arts Festival and the Hong Kong Ballet.

Originally called the Sino-British Orchestra, it was renamed the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra in 1957 and became fully professional in 1974. The HK Phil is a charitable organisation.

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and is Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.
SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.