

PRESS RELEASE
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The HK Phil Conjures Up a Festive Mood with Two Stylish Programmes: *A Jazz Night with Hiromi* (23 & 24 December) and *A Viennese New Year* (30 & 31 December)

[18 December 2019, Hong Kong] For the upcoming festive season, the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** brings two stylish programmes to audience in Hong Kong. In anticipation of Christmas celebrations, composer/jazz pianist [HIROMI](#) joins hands with fellow Japanese conductor [Ryusuke Numajiri](#) to share her music in two nights of jazz at the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall** on **23 & 24 December**. And to bid farewell to the year 2019, British conductor [Christopher Warren-Green](#) teams up with Canadian/American coloratura soprano [Sharleen Joynt](#) to bring our audience a Viennese New Year in Hong Kong. Two performances will take place at the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**: one each on **30 & 31 December**.

A Jazz Night with HIROMI (23 & 24 December)

“Jazz pianist and composer Hiromi Uehara is a whirling dervish of musical energy. Her diverse recorded repertoire over the last 16 years verifies that claim.”

--- *Jazzed Magazine*

What better Christmas present to suggest than to enjoy a dazzling display of virtuosity and compelling showmanship by HIROMI. On the two nights leading up to Christmas itself, the star Japanese jazz pianist and composer HIROMI brings her music to the stage of the HK Phil with conductor Ryusuke Numajiri, himself a strong advocate of contemporary music.

Arguably the most famous musician in the Japanese jazz scene, HIROMI made her debut in 2003 and has 13 albums to her credit to date. Her unique musical style is most succinctly summed up in her own words: “Other people can put a name on what I do. It’s just the union of what I’ve been listening to and what I’ve been learning. It has some elements of classical music, it has some rock, it has some jazz.”

For these two jazzy nights, HIROMI will add glitter and sparkle to our Christmas celebrations with her original compositions for jazz piano and orchestra, including *Place to Be* (title track from her 2009 album), *The Tom and Jerry Show* (from her debut album *Another Mind*), *Spiral* (another title track from her acclaimed 2006 album), and more!

Concert Sponsor: Chow Sang Sang.

Piano Sponsor: Tom Lee Music

A Viennese New Year (30 & 31 December)

“She combines technical command with spirited acting and a love for taking risks and will certainly soon enchant audiences way beyond Heidelberg with her attractive voice”

--- *Opernwelt* Magazine (Germany) on Sharleen Joynt

For the HK Phil’s traditional New Year concert, the orchestra ushers in 2020 with a joyful and exuberant programme of popular waltzes and polkas from the era when Vienna was the City of Dance and Johann Strauss II its undisputed king. Kickstarted by conductor Christopher Warren-Green, who has conducted at many important British royal occasions, the celebration begins with a rendition of the Overture from the Waltz King’s operetta *Die Fledermaus*.

Prized for her “lovely, pure voice” (*Times Colonist*) with nicely controlled phrasing and admirable projection, the young and radiant soprano Sharleen Joynt will sing two coloratura showstoppers: the “Audition Song” from *Die Fledermaus*, and “Glitter and be Gay” from Leonard Bernstein’s comic operetta *Candide*.

This concert also includes the Asia premieres of two contemporary orchestral works. Inspired by American minimalists, Robert Moran’s *Points of Departure* is a musical celebration of dance. *The Nine Symphonies of Beethoven*, created by the eminent Dutch composer Louis Andriessen, meanwhile offers a quick and fun preview of all of Beethoven’s symphonies. Originally composed in 1970 for concerts celebrating Beethoven’s bicentennial, Andriessen’s work is fittingly presented in anticipation of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth in 2020.

Naturally, our Viennese-flavoured celebration concludes with the perennial favourite *The Blue Danube* Waltz before our audience is ready to march on to the New Year’s Countdown at the Tsim Sha Tsui harbourfront.

Holidays & Pops: A Jazz Night with Hiromi will be held on **23 & 24 December (Mon & Tue) at 8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets are HK\$480, \$380, \$280 and \$220 and are available at [URBTIX](#).

Holidays & Pops: A Viennese New Year will be held on **30 & 31 December (Mon & Tue) at 8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets are HK\$480, \$380, \$280 and \$220 and are available at [URBTIX](#).

For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Artists (A Jazz Night with Hiromi)

HIROMI, composer & jazz piano [\[full biography\]](#)

Born in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka, Japan, HIROMI's piano lessons started when she was six, and she performed her first recital at that age. She moved to the US in 1999, and studied at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Among her mentors at Berklee was the veteran jazz bassist/arranger Richard Evans, who co-produced her debut CD, *Another Mind*. Her second release, *Brain*, was named Album of the Year in *Swing Journal's* 2005 Readers Poll. In 2006 HIROMI won Best Jazz Act at the Boston Music Awards and the Guinness Jazz Festival's Rising Star Award. She also claimed Jazzman of the Year, Pianist of the Year and Album of the Year in *Swing Journal's* Readers Poll for her 2006 release, *Spiral*. Released in 2019, *Spectrum* is the latest chapter in HIROMI's ever-evolving musical life.

Ryusuke Numajiri, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

Ryusuke Numajiri won 1st Prize in the Besançon International Competition in 1990. This resulted in invitations to conduct the London Symphony Orchestra, Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse and DSO Berlin, among others. He is a strong advocate of contemporary music and has conducted the Japanese premieres of several major contemporary works including Philip Glass' *Peace Symphony*, Busoni's *Piano Concerto* and *Doktor Faustus*, Zemlinsky's *Der Zwerg* and Schoenberg's *Notturmo*. Currently Artistic Director of Biwako Hall and Music Director of Tokyo Mitaka Philharmonia, Numajiri was awarded the Medal of Honour with the Purple Ribbon by Emperor of Japan in 2017.

Artists (A Viennese New Year)

Christopher Warren-Green, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

British conductor Christopher Warren-Green is Music Director of both the London Chamber Orchestra and Charlotte Symphony in North Carolina. Working extensively in Europe and North America, he has collaborated with eminent orchestras around the world as guest conductor over the last 30 years. In addition to his international commitments, he was invited to conduct at the weddings of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge at Westminster Abbey in 2011 and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex at St George's Chapel, Windsor, in 2018. He has also conducted the Philharmonia Orchestra for HM The Queen's 90th-birthday concert at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

Sharleen Joynt, soprano [\[full biography\]](#)

Coloratura soprano Sharleen Joynt has been engaged by the Metropolitan Opera, Augsburg Opera, Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, Heidelberg Opera and Oper St. Gallen for such roles as Blonde (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*), Despina (*Così fan tutte*), Adele (*Die Fledermaus*), and more. She recently made her Tanglewood debut as Cunegonde in *Candide*, a role that she has performed for the Ravinia Festival in Illinois. In addition to her debut this season with the HK Phil, she stars as Gilda in *Rigoletto* for the Edmonton Opera, Zerbinetta in *Ariadne auf Naxos* for Calgary Opera and the Controller in Jonathan Dove's *Flight* for Pacific Opera Victoria.

HOLIDAYS & POPS: A JAZZ NIGHT WITH HIROMI

23 & 24 | 12 | 2019

MON & TUE 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$480 \$380 \$280 \$220

Tickets are now available at URBTIX.

For ages 6 and above

Concert Sponsor: Chow Sang Sang.

Piano Sponsor: Tom Lee Music

Artists

[Ryusuke Numajiri](#)

conductor

[HIROMI](#)

composer & jazz piano

Click the thumbnails to download press images [Or hold Ctrl then click to open the file]



Ryusuke Numajiri



HIROMI



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-wai/HK Phil

Programme

HIROMI *Place to be*

HIROMI *The Tom and Jerry Show*

HIROMI *Spiral*

And more original compositions for jazz piano and orchestra by HIROMI

HOLIDAYS & POPS: A VIENNESE NEW YEAR

30 & 31 | 12 | 2019

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Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$480 \$380 \$280 \$220

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Artists

[Christopher Warren-Green](#) conductor

[Sharleen Joynt](#) soprano

Click the thumbnails to download press images [Or hold Ctrl then click to open the file]



Christopher Warren-Green
Photo Credit: Jeff Cravotta



Sharleen Joynt
Photo Credit: Kevin Tun



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-Wai/HK Phil

Programme

J STRAUSS II

Die Fledermaus Overture

J STRAUSS II

Die Fledermaus: Spiel ich die Unschuld vom Lande

Robert MORAN

Points of Departure (Asia Premiere)

Louis ANDRIESEN

The Nine Symphonies of Beethoven (Asia Premiere)

BERNSTEIN

Candide: Glitter and be Gay

J STRAUSS II

Blue Danube

and more

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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. In 2019, the HK Phil received the prestigious *Gramophone* Orchestra of the Year Award – the first orchestra in Asia to receive this distinction.

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 Jaap van Zweden, the HK Phil has attained new heights of artistic excellence, garnering international critical acclaim. The orchestra successfully completed a four-year journey through Wagner's Ring Cycle, performing and recording one opera from the cycle each year from 2015 to 2018. The concert performances and live Naxos recordings were enthusiastically received by audiences, praised by critics at home and abroad and garnered Gramophone Orchestra of the Year Award 2019.

The HK Phil tours extensively across Mainland China and, with the support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, 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 orchestra will perform in Japan and Korea in 2020.

Thanks to a significant subsidy from the Hong Kong SAR Government and long-term funding from Principal Patron Swire, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and other supporters, the HK Phil presents an 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.

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 conducting their own compositions. Its acclaimed education and community engagement programmes in schools, hospitals and outdoor spaces 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, stimulate cultural participation in Hong Kong, and enhance Hong Kong's reputation as one of the great cities in the world.

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 a Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.