

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**DATE: 10 November 2020**

## **Swire Symphony Under The Stars 2020 Moves ONLINE** **“BE THE STARS”**

**PREMIERES ONLINE 12 December 2020 (Saturday), 7:30PM on hkphil.org, YouTube and Facebook**  
**#HKPhilSUTS2020**

[10 November 2020, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra's (HK Phil) signature concert **SWIRE SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS (SUTS)** will take place virtually, for the first time, on **12 December 2020 (Saturday)** at 7:30PM, and everyone is invited to take a starring role – “Be the STARS” together.

Traditionally held as a large outdoor event, SUTS has become an annual favourite for thousands of families and fans. This year's event will take a personal approach – “Be the STARS” – connecting people's values to the stars and capturing their messages in a collective expression of gratitude and hope.

This year, the HK Phil has introduced a new campaign – “Your Starry Moment”, inviting the audience to “be the stars” in the concert! This is an opportunity for audience members to send a photo of someone or something special in their life – a loved one, a pet, a special object or memento. The HK Phil will build a collage of these photos and set to music in the concert, creating a uniquely personal performance. Photos can be submitted from **11 to 25 November 2020** on the [“Your Starry Moment” webpage](#).

The concert includes **music by Copland, Mozart, Bizet, Vivaldi, Debussy, and Bernstein** that celebrates, comforts and uplifts. Combining photo collages, animations, and multi-media effects, **the concert will be presented on the HK Phil's website, YouTube channel and Facebook page**. This online event will be accessible world-wide, bringing images representing people's aspirations and joys to a global audience.

Renowned conductor [Lio Kuokman](#) will be at the podium for this event curated by Creative Director of this year's event, [Phoebus Chan](#). The concert will feature HK Phil musicians [Lin Jiang](#) (Principal Horn), [Jing Wang](#) (Concertmaster), [Andrew Simon](#) (Principal Clarinet) and [Richard Bamping](#) (Principal Cello) alongside members of the HK Phil. More details about the concert are available at [suts.hkphil.org](#).

Thanks to the Swire Group, the orchestra's Principal Patron since 2006, the HK Phil is able to present this popular Hong Kong event in a new and special way this year. Together the HK Phil and Swire will bring the world of classical music to the widest possible audience.

### **FAST FACTS ABOUT SWIRE SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS 2020 ONLINE – “BE THE STARS”**

**Date:** 12 December 2020 (Saturday) at 7:30PM  
PREMIERE on HK Phil website hkphil.org, YouTube channel and Facebook page

**Admission:** FREE ONLINE and accessible WORLDWIDE

**Get ready:** Yourself and your STARS to enjoy the evening with the HK Phil!

**Programme**

**COPLAND**

*Fanfare for the Common Man*

**MOZART**

*The Marriage of Figaro Overture*

**MOZART**

Horn Concerto no. 3, K.447: 3<sup>rd</sup> movement

(Lin Jiang, horn)

**BIZET**

*Carmen Suite no. 1: Intermezzo*

**VIVALDI**

*The Four Seasons: Summer*

(Jing Wang, violin)

**MASCAGNI**

*Cavalleria Rusticana: Intermezzo*

**MILHAUD**

*Scaramouche: 3<sup>rd</sup> movement "Brazileira"*

(Andrew Simon, clarinet)

**DEBUSSY**

*Clair de lune*

**TAN Dun**

*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon Concerto: 1<sup>st</sup> movement*

(Richard Bamping, cello)

**BERNSTEIN**

*On the Town: Three Dance Episodes*

and more...

## Artists

### **Lio Kuokman, conductor** [\[full biography\]](#)

Praised by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as “a startling conducting talent”, Lio Kuokman was the laureate at 2014 Svetlanov International Conducting Competition. Lio served as Assistant Conductor to Music Director Yannick Nézet-Seguin at the Philadelphia Orchestra, the first Chinese conductor to be appointed in this position in the history of the orchestra. He is currently Programme Director of the Macao International Music Festival.

### **Phoebus Chan, creative director of SUTS 2020 & presenter** [\[full biography\]](#)

Phoebus Chan, Founder and Executive Director of PA House Asia Ltd.; Vice-Chairman of Hong Kong Innovision ; Chairman of Mainland Hong Kong Macau Arts and Culture Youth Alliance ; Vice- Chairman of Hong Kong QingDao Association; Chairman of Worldwide Chinese Foundation; Board member of Faith in Love Foundation; Chairman of Haoxue Action ; Chairman of Alumni Association of Music Department of the Chinese University of Hong Kong ; Columnist of Sing Tao Daily and Kung Kao Po.

### **Lin Jiang, horn** [\[full biography\]](#)

Principal Horn of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Lin Jiang is considered an extraordinarily gifted horn player of his generation. Born in Shanghai in 1986, he moved with his family to Australia at the age of five and began playing the horn at the age of ten. He continued his studies at Scotch College Melbourne, the Victorian College of the Arts and graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Music degree with honours.

### **Jing Wang, violin** [\[full biography\]](#)

Critically acclaimed Canadian violinist Jing Wang is one of the most versatile and dynamic violinists of his generation. Since his solo recital debut in Marseilles, France at the age of six, Wang has garnered prizes in top international competitions, including the first prize at the 2007 Irving M. Klein International Strings Competition. In 2003, Wang was awarded the "Young Soloist of the Year" by Les Radios Francophones Publiques, a broadcast network of four countries including France, Canada, Switzerland, and Belgium. As a part of the award, Wang's first CD album including works by Beethoven, Ravel and Gershwin was released in Europe.

### **Andrew Simon, clarinet** [\[full biography\]](#)

Andrew Simon has appeared as soloist and guest lecturer on four continents. As Principal Clarinet of the HK Phil, he has recorded solo works by Baermann and Stravinsky and has performed concerti over 60 times, including John Corigliano's Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra which he studied with the Academy Award-winning composer. Among his notable performances are those with the Mainly Mozart Orchestra (US), the Singapore Symphony, as well as giving the Australian and Asian premieres of the original, unpublished version of Copland's Concerto.

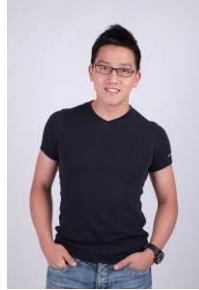
### **Richard Bamping, cello** [\[full biography\]](#)

Richard Bamping has been the Principal Cello of the HK Phil since 1993. He has performed with many of the finest musicians of recent history - Lord Yehudi Menuhin, Leonidas Kavakos, Mstislav Rostropovich, Carlo Maria Guilini, Valery Gergiev, Leonard Bernstein, Lorin Maazel, Sir Colin Davis and Claudio Abbado, to name but a few. Bamping has performed many of the staples of the solo cello repertoire with orchestras from Europe to the Far East. He has a great passion for playing chamber music with friends and colleagues whenever he gets the chance.

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



**Lio Kuokman**  
Photo Credit: Tey Tat Keng



**Phoebus Chan**



**Lin Jiang**  
Photo Credit: Ka Lam/HK Phil



**Jing Wang**  
Photo Credit: Cheung Wai-lok



**Andrew Simon**



**Richard Bamping**  
Photo Credit: Cheung Wai-lok



**Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**  
Photo Credit: Ka Lam/HK Phil

--- END ---

---

For further press information please contact:

**Meggy Cheng, Director of Marketing**

Tel: +852 2721 9035 Email: [meggy.cheng@hkphil.org](mailto:meggy.cheng@hkphil.org)

**Flora Fung, Media Relations and Communications Manager**

Tel: +852 2721 1585 Email: [flora.fung@hkphil.org](mailto:flora.fung@hkphil.org)

## 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 through to the end of the 2023/24 season. Following his tenure as Music Director, he will hold the title of Conductor Laureate. Maestro van Zweden has also been 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 annually 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 undertake tours to 10 cities in Europe in May 2021, with debuts in Spain, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the German cities of Cologne and Dresden. The HK Phil will also be making its debut at the prestigious Royal Concertgebouw's Mahler Festival 2021, the first Asian orchestra to perform at this monumental event which is held every 25 years in Amsterdam.

Thanks to a significant subsidy from the HKSAR Government, as well as 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, Hong Kong Arts Festival, and Hong Kong Ballet.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Joshua Bell, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, Renée Fleming, Matthias Goerne, Stephen Hough, Evgeny Kissin, Katia and Marielle Labèque (the Labèque sisters), 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.