

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Date: 11 June 2021

**HK Phil Resident Conductor Lio Kuokman Returns to Conduct the Orchestra for Four Weeks Beginning with Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade***

**Lio Kuokman | Scheherazade (11 & 12 June)**

[11 June 2021, Hong Kong] Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) Resident Conductor [Lio Kuokman](#) will conduct the HK Phil in four exciting and diverse programmes to conclude the 2020/21 season, beginning with two Russian masterpieces by Prokofiev and Rimsky-Korsakov in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall** on **11 & 12 June (tonight & tomorrow)**.

This weekend's concerts open with **Prokofiev's Symphony no. 1, *Classical*** – a 20<sup>th</sup> century symphony written in the classical style of Mozart and Haydn. Prokofiev was imagining what he would have written had he lived in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and the resulting blend of the styles of two eras has made the work Prokofiev's most popular symphony.

**HK Phil Principal Horn Lin Jiang** will be featured in **Förster's Horn Concerto**. Förster, a prolific German composer of the Baroque period, was a contemporary of Bach. His horn concerto includes virtuosic rapid passages in the extreme high register of the horn, along with lyrical and melodious moments, perfectly suited to Lin Jian's remarkable abilities as a horn player.

Concluding the concert is **Rimsky-Korsakov's** orchestral showpiece, ***Scheherazade*** – a symphonic suite derived from the famous Middle Eastern collection of tales known as *One Thousand and One Nights*. The work includes numerous stunningly elegant violin solos that represent the alluring character Scheherazade. Rimsky-Korsakov's colourful and evocative score will capture the imagination of everyone who hears it.

**Lio Kuokman | Scheherazade** will be presented on **11 & 12 June 2021 (Fri & Sat)** at **8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets are HK\$420, \$320 and \$220 and are available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](http://hkphil.org).

## Artists

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

Praised by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as “a startling conducting talent”, Lio Kuokman was the laureate at the 2014 Svetlanov International Conducting Competition. Lio Kuokman is Resident Conductor with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and has previously served as assistant conductor to music director Yannick Nézet-Seguin with 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.

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

Principal Horn of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Lin Jiang is considered one of the most extraordinarily gifted horn players 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.

## LIO KUOKMAN | SCHEHERAZADE

11 & 12 | 6 | 2021

FRI & SAT 8 PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK \$420 \$320 \$220

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Lio Kuokman](#)

conductor

[Lin Jiang](#)

horn

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



Lio Kuokman

Photo Credit: Tey Tat Keng



Lin Jiang



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-Wai/HK Phil

### Programme

**PROKOFIEV**

Symphony no. 1, *Classical*

**FÖRSTER**

Horn Concerto

**RIMSKY-KORSAKOV**

*Scheherazade*

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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 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.

Lio Kuokman has been appointed as Resident Conductor, effective 1 December 2020 and covering the 2020/21 and 2021/22 seasons.

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.

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 recently founded "The Orchestra Academy Hong Kong", funded by "TrustTomorrow" of The Swire Group Charitable Trust and co-directed with The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, aims at enhancing professional training for graduates from HKAPA's School of Music and facilitating their career development in the orchestral field.

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.