

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Date: 15 June 2021

## **Experience the Surreal Sound of the Real World with Live Orchestra and Spectacular Scenes** **BBC Planet Earth II in Concert – Hong Kong Premiere by the HK Phil!**

**BBC Planet Earth II Live in Concert (18 & 19 June)**  
**Swire Sunday Family Series: BBC Planet Earth II Live in Concert (20 June)**

[15 June 2021, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) will present the HK premiere of the phenomenal BBC *Planet Earth II* in Concert on **18 & 19 June (Fri & Sat), 8PM**, and on **20 June (Sun), 3PM** (for ages three and above). The concerts will be conducted by **HK Phil Resident Conductor [Lio Kuokman](#)**, and narrated in English by **[Dr. Andrew Sutherland](#)**. **Very limited tickets for all three performances!** Don't miss the chance to experience the surreal sound of the real world with the HK Phil.

**“[BBC *Planet Earth II*] will be an uplifting experience, celebrating the majesty of life and all the beauty and wonder that Mother Earth has to offer.”**

--- Natural TV presenter Liz Bonnin

*Planet Earth II* is BBC's first nature documentary to be filmed in ultra-high definition (4K), remote recording, and aerial drone technology. The soundtrack was specifically commissioned for the documentary, with the main theme composed by the renowned film music composer **Hans Zimmer**, and the music for the respective episodes by **Jacob Shea** and **Jasha Klebe** for Bleeding Fingers Music, a venture by Zimmer under Sony Music. The screening of this documentary live in the concert hall has been long anticipated by audiences worldwide and is finally going to be premiered in Hong Kong by the HK Phil!

This concert will be a great escape from the hectic urban everyday of Hong Kong, or perhaps, it will give us a different insight into the Earth that is so dear to us.

**BBC Planet Earth II Live in Concert** will be presented on **18 & 19 June 2021 (Fri & Sat) 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](#).

**Swire Sunday Family Series: BBC Planet Earth II Live in Concert** will be presented on **20 June 2021 (Sun) at 3PM** 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

### **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-Seguín 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.

### **Dr. Andrew Sutherland, narrator** [\[full description\]](#)

Dr Andrew Sutherland began lecturing in Music at Hong Kong Baptist University in 2019. Formerly based in London, he performed in many of the major venues around the city. He grew up in Western Australia performing with the WA Symphony Orchestra, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, The Song Company and many others. In 1995 he formed the Giovanni Consort in Perth, which continues to employ young singers to perform high quality chamber music.

## BBC PLANET EARTH II LIVE IN CONCERT

18 & 19 | 6 | 2021

FRI & SAT 8 PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

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

Tickets now available at URBTIX, **very limited tickets**

For ages 6 and above

## SWIRE SUNDAY FAMILY SERIES: BBC PLANET EARTH II LIVE IN CONCERT

20 | 6 | 2021

SUN 3 PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

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

Tickets now available at URBTIX, **very limited tickets**

For ages 3 and above

### Artists

[Lio Kuokman](#)

conductor

[Dr. Andrew Sutherland](#)

narrator

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



Lio Kuokman



Andrew Sutherland



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra  
Photo Credit: HK Phil

### Programme

BBC *Planet Earth II* (Hong Kong Premiere)



Planet Earth II the television series is a BBC Studios Natural History Unit production, co-produced with BBC America, ZDF, Tencent and France Télévisions.

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Music Produced by Bleeding Fingers Music

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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.