

PRESS RELEASE
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HK Phil and pianist/conductor David Greilsammer in a cinema and classics crossover featuring the music of John Williams and Mozart

Swire Denim Series: Mozart Meets John Williams (17 & 18 September)

[17 September 2021, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) welcomes conductor and pianist [David Greilsammer](#) in his HK Phil debut, presenting a crossover concert with classical master **Mozart** and cinema score master, **John Williams**. Two performances on **17 & 18 September** in **Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium**. **Limited tickets only!**

The programme opens with **Mozart's Symphony no. 35, Haffner**, which began life as a serenade written for the Haffner family. Mozart later revisited the work and turned it into a symphony which, he told his father, should be played with fire.

Escapades by **John Williams** comes from the movie **Catch Me if You Can**. It features Hong Kong saxophonist [Timothy Sun](#), and is in the form of a whimsical concerto delivering the musical message "catch me if you can". Continuing with the John Williams film score theme, the orchestra will perform **Star Wars: Imperial March**. Feel the pomp and glamour of this piece as it brings audiences to a different galaxy far, far away.

The concert ends with **Mozart's Piano Concerto no. 17** featuring **David Greilsammer** who will direct the orchestra from the keyboard. The Concerto ends with a set of variations on a charming theme which Mozart claimed to have heard sung by his pet starling!

David Greilsammer is invited through a special collaboration between the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and Premiere Performances Hong Kong.

Swire Denim Series: Mozart Meets John Williams will be presented on **17 & 18 September 2021 (Fri & Sat)** at **8PM** in the Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium. Tickets are HK\$420, \$320 and \$220 and are available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](#).

Artists

David Greilsammer, conductor/piano [\[full description\]](#)

Known for his eclectic and fascinating programmes, conductor and pianist David Greilsammer is recognised as one of the most audacious and adventurous artists in the classical world. Praised as a musician who is never afraid of taking risks on stage, he has created some of today's most eclectic and daring musical projects, winning distinctions from The New York Times, The Sunday Times, The French Music Awards, and many others.

Timothy Sun, saxophone [\[full description\]](#)

Timothy Sun began his music studies at the age of 7. In 2001 he became the first Chinese saxophone and clarinet student at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama under a full scholarship for his Bachelor's degree, where his principal teachers were saxophonists John Harle and Christian Forshaw. Sun completed his Master's degree in 2006 under a school scholarship and received the highest score in the final recital. In recent seasons, Sun has appeared in more than 100 recitals and orchestral concerts in Asia and Europe.

SWIRE DENIM SERIES: MOZART MEETS JOHN WILLIAMS

17 & 18 | 9 | 2021

FRI & SAT 8PM

Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium

HK\$420 \$320 \$220

Tickets now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[David Greilsammer](#)

conductor/piano

[Timothy Sun](#)

saxophone

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David Greilsammer
Photo Credit: Julien Mignot



Timothy Sun



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo Credit: Eric Hong/HK Phil

Programme

MOZART

John WILLIAMS

John WILLIAMS

MOZART

Symphony no. 35, *Haffner*

Escapades

Star Wars: Imperial March

Piano Concerto no. 17

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden, SBS

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 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 is also Music Director of the New York Philharmonic. Yu Long has been Principal Guest Conductor since the 2015/16 season, while Lio Kuokman has been Resident Conductor since the 2020/21 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, and garnered *Gramophone* Orchestra of the Year Award 2019.

The HK Phil tours extensively across Mainland China and around the world, to showcase the orchestra's and the city's artistic excellence. In 2019, the HK Phil was the first Hong Kong arts group to perform in the Greater Bay Area since the promulgation of the "Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area". With the support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, the HK Phil undertook a major tour in 2017 to Seoul, Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne and Sydney in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.

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, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Hong Kong Ballet, HKU MUSE, Opera Hong Kong and Tai Kwun.

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, 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.