

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Date: 28 December 2021

## The HK Phil's first two programmes in 2022 feature Principal Guest Conductor Yu Long and three dazzling soloists

**SWIRE MAESTRO SERIES: YU LONG | BERNSTEIN (7 & 8 JANUARY)**  
**YU LONG | TCHAIKOVSKY 5 (14 & 15 JANUARY)**

[28 December 2021, Hong Kong] Following the sold-out **New Year's** concerts, **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** distinguished Principal Guest Conductor, Yu Long, will kickstart the new year by conducting the orchestra's first two programmes of 2022. While limited seats of the January concerts are still available, fans should act quickly to snap up remaining tickets!

On **7 & 8 January 2022 (Fri & Sat)**, **Swire Maestro Series: Yu Long | Bernstein** will feature renowned erhu player Yiwen Lu and pianist Zee Zee. **Yu Long | Tchaikovsky 5**, on **14 & 15 January 2022 (Fri & Sat)**, will showcase the HK Phil's Guest Principal Trumpet Nitiphum Bamrungbanthum. Both concerts will be in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**.

### Swire Maestro Series: Yu Long | Bernstein (7 & 8 January)

Maestro Yu Long opens this concert with the prelude to Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina*, which paints a musical picture of Dawn over the Moscow River, and incorporates a Russian folk melody. Also featuring an ancient melody, Chen Qigang's *Un Temps Disparu*, looks back both to China's Jin Dynasty and the composer's early life experiences. In this magical and evocative work, erhu soloist Yiwen Lu will join the HK Phil offering concertgoers the unique experience of an ancient Chinese instrument soloing with a modern Western orchestra. Wrapping up the concert is Bernstein's Symphony no.2 – *The Age of Anxiety*. Half symphony and half piano concerto, this was Leonard Bernstein's musical response to W H Auden's poem about the futility of a hedonistic lifestyle. One of America's most remarkable and versatile musicians, Bernstein also possessed a strong awareness of social injustice. Virtuoso pianist Zee Zee takes on the demanding piano part.

**Swire Maestro Series: Yu Long | Bernstein** will be held on **7 & 8 January 2022 (Fri & Sat)** at **8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets priced at HK\$480, \$380 and \$280 are available at [URBTIX](https://www.urbtix.com). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](https://www.hkphil.org).

### Yu Long | Tchaikovsky 5 (14 & 15 January)

The concert opens with Rimsky-Korsakov's Overture to *The Tsar's Bride*, an opera based on a play by Lev Mey concerning Tsar Ivan IV whose third wife died on the day of her wedding. The Overture portrays this romantic tragedy filled with drama and tension. Named Principal Trumpet of the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra in 2017 at the age of 20 and highly acclaimed by *Bangkok Post* as one of the Thailand's "most exciting musical prospects", HK Phil Guest Principal Trumpet Nitiphum Bamrungbanthum, will perform Haydn's remarkable Trumpet Concerto, the third movement of which was used in the popular Netflix TV Series, *Squid Game*. Marking a triumphant and unforgettable end to the evening, Tchaikovsky's glorious Symphony no. 5 will perfectly showcase the passion of Yu Long and the HK Phil.

**Yu Long | Tchaikovsky 5** will be held on **14 & 15 January 2022 (Fri & Sat)** at **8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets priced at HK\$480, \$380 and \$280 are available at [URBTIX](https://www.urbtix.com). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](https://www.hkphil.org).

### Artists (Swire Maestro Series: Yu Long | Bernstein)

#### Yu Long, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Hailed as the “most powerful figure in China’s classical music scene” by *The New York Times*, Chinese conductor Long Yu holds positions as Chairman of the Artistic Committee of the Beijing Music Festival, Artist Director of the China Philharmonic Orchestra, Music Director of the Shanghai and Guangzhou Symphony orchestras, Co-director of MISA Shanghai Summer Festival, and Principal Guest Conductor of the HK Phil.

#### Yiwen Lu, erhu [\[full description\]](#)

Yiwen Lu is director of the Erhu Committee of the China Nationalities Orchestra Society, and currently teaches erhu at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. She won the Erhu Youth Group’s highest performance award at the 4<sup>th</sup> Wenhua Prize and the Gold Medal of the 10<sup>th</sup> Golden Bell Award Erhu Competition. She was also listed among “The Top Ten Chinese Erhu Players” by CCTV in 2014.

#### Zee Zee, piano [\[full description\]](#)

Zee Zee is “full of enthusiasm and glamour, radiating the vigour of youth” (*Chinese Gramophone*), and her creative maturity has been hailed as “a powerful, passionate and compelling representation of pure artistry” (*Los Angeles Times*). Recent highlights have included the season opening concert with the Estonian National Symphony under Neeme Järvi, the Macedonian Philharmonic, the China Philharmonic at the Beijing Music Festival, the Philharmonia Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, London, under Paavo Järvi, and the complete piano concertos of Beethoven and Saint-Saëns with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra.

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### Artists (Yu Long | Tchaikovsky 5)

#### Yu Long, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

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#### Nitiphum Bamrungbanthum, trumpet [\[full description\]](#)

Nitiphum Bamrungbanthum is currently Guest Principal Trumpet of the HK Phil. He was named Principal Trumpet of the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra in 2017 at the age of 20. Previously he served as Co-Principal of the Princess Galyani Vadhana Youth Orchestra and the Mahidol Wind Orchestra. He is a founding member of the Zero Brass Quintet, which was awarded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (no first prize awarded) in the 18<sup>th</sup> Osaka International Music Competition (Mixed Chamber Music Division).

## SWIRE MAESTRO SERIES: YU LONG | BERNSTEIN (7 & 8 JANUARY)

7 & 8 | 1 | 2022

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK \$480 \$380 \$280

Tickets now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Yu Long](#)

[Yiwen Lu](#)

[Zee Zee](#)

conductor

erhu

piano

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



Yu Long

Photo Credit: Tang Hui Studio



Yiwen Lu



Zee Zee

Photo Credit: Sunhao Zhou



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Eric Hong/HK Phil

### Programme

MUSSORGSKY

CHEN Qigang

BERNSTEIN

*Khovanshchina*: Dawn on the Moskva River

*Un Temps Disparu* for Erhu and Orchestra

Symphony no. 2, *The Age of Anxiety*

## YU LONG | TCHAIKOVSKY 5 (14 & 15 JANUARY)

14 & 15 | 1 | 2022

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK \$480 \$380 \$280

Tickets now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Yu Long](#)

conductor

[Nitiphum Bamrungbanthum](#)

trumpet

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



Yu Long

Photo Credit: Xu Qing



Nitiphum Bamrungbanthum



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Ka Lam/HK Phil

### Programme

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

*The Tsar's Bride Overture*

HAYDN

Trumpet Concerto

TCHAIKOVSKY

Symphony no. 5

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港樂  
HKPhil

## Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden, SBS

Principal Guest Conductor: Yu Long

梵志登 音樂總監  
Jaap van Zweden Music Director

余隆 首席客席指揮  
Yu Long Principal Guest Conductor

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.

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