

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Lio Kuokman, Resident Conductor of Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Awarded HKADC Artist of the Year (Music)**

**[23 May 2022, Hong Kong]** The **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** is proud to congratulate Mr Lio Kuokman, the orchestra's Resident Conductor, on being awarded Artist of the Year (Music) of the 16<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Arts Development Awards by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC).

Lio Kuokman has worked with many leading orchestras around the world. He is currently Programme Director of the Macao International Music Festival, a role he started in January 2020. He has received the Certificate of Commendation and the Medal of Cultural Merit from the governments of Hong Kong and Macao, respectively, and he was named one of Hong Kong's Ten Outstanding Young Persons by Junior Chamber International in 2021.

Lio Kuokman is delighted to have received the award: "I am honoured to be named as the Artist of the Year by the HKADC. Since the age of four, I have been dreaming of being a conductor. I am truly grateful for all the mentors who gave me guidance and opportunities throughout my musical journey. I wish to continue to make fine music for the audience in Hong Kong as well as around the world, together with the HK Phil and any other brilliant musician. I also want to bring music to the community and use music to connect people."

Mr Benedikt Fohr, Chief Executive of the HK Phil, extends his heartfelt congratulations to Lio Kuokman: "Lio Kuokman has been collaborating with the HK Phil for many years and he became a family member of the HK Phil as a Resident Conductor since 2020. He is a home-grown conductor who has earned remarkable recognition internationally. He is talented with great passion, enthusiasm and commitment in musicmaking. His achievement is well-recognised. We are very proud that Lio was awarded the Artist of the Year and look forward to continuing our exciting musical journey with Lio in the coming seasons." Fohr also thanks the HKADC for presenting the awards.

Organised by the HKADC, the Awards is an annual flagship event which aims to give formal recognition to distinguished arts practitioners who have achieved excellence and made significant contributions to the development of the arts in Hong Kong. The awards presentation ceremony is available for viewing on [YouTube](#).

Lio Kuokman will conduct the HK Phil's Roman Holiday concerts on [18 June](#) and [2 July](#) 2022 (Saturdays) in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Among the most spectacular orchestral music in the entire repertory, Respighi's *Fountains of Rome* and *Pines of Rome* conjure up spell-binding images of the great city. In between, HK Phil's Linda Stuckey presents the world premiere of OZNO's Piccolo Concerto showcasing the small but mighty personality of this tiny instrument. The concert on 2 July is also the orchestra's 2021/22 Season Finale. Tickets are limited; act now to snap up the tickets!

Resident Conductor's Podium Sponsor: The Tung Foundation

### **About Lio Kuokman**

Currently serving as Resident Conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and Programme Director of the Macao International Music Festival, Lio is praised by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as "a startling conducting talent". He was the second prize winner of the third Svetlanov International Conducting Competition in Paris with audience prize and orchestra prize, and he has served as the first Chinese Assistant Conductor with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Lio has successfully collaborated with many leading orchestras across the globe. This season he was invited as the first Chinese conductor to conduct subscription concert with the Vienna Symphony, and he also received an invitation by the French government to lead the first Saudi Arabia performance tour with Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse. He completed ten performances in Taiwan with NTSO, appeared at Music in PyeongChang Festival, and conducted the Season Finale concert with the HK Phil. Other collaborated orchestras including Detroit Symphony, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestre Philharmonique de Marseille, Seoul Philharmonic, NHK, Hiroshima, Tokyo Metropolitan, Kyoto Symphony, Russian National Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic, Latvian National Symphony, etc.

Lio has also participated in opera productions. Lio recently collaborated with National Taichung Theater on // *Barbiere di Siviglia*. Other opera performances include collaborations with Musica Viva Hong Kong on *La bohème*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *Turandot*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Carmen*; and was invited by Valery Gergiev as guest conductor at the Mariinsky Theatre. As a concert pianist, Lio has collaborated with Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg and Fort Worth Symphony.

Educated at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, the Juilliard School, the Curtis Institute of Music, and the New England Conservatory, Lio is a founding member and President of the Macao Chamber Music Association. For his contributions to the development of arts and culture, he has received Certificate of Commendation and Medal of Cultural Merit from both governments of Hong Kong and Macao. In 2021, Lio is the recipient of the Hong Kong Ten Outstanding Young Persons award.

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Lio Kuokman  
Photo credit: Tey Tat Keng



Lio Kuokman  
Photo credit: Ricky Lo  
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Lio Kuokman and the Hong Kong  
Philharmonic Orchestra  
Photo credit: Ka Lam/HK Phil



Lio Kuokman and the Hong Kong  
Philharmonic Orchestra  
Photo credit: Ka Lam/HK Phil



Lio Kuokman and the Hong Kong Philharmonic  
Orchestra  
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## Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden, SBS

Principal Guest Conductor: Yu Long

Resident Conductor: Lio Kuokman

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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