

PRESS RELEASE
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HK Phil Announces the Second Commission from The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong Composers Scheme

[10 August 2022, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is delighted to announce that **Simon Yip Sai-man** has been awarded a commission for a new composition for the second edition of **The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong Composers Scheme** (Composers Scheme). This new piece will receive its world premiere by the HK Phil at the “Jaap | Shostakovich 5” concerts in the 2022/23 Season.

Simon Yip Sai-man (b. 1985) graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts with a major in composition. His work *The Lifestyle of a Nouveau Riche* was rehearsed and performed by the HK Phil under the baton of Fayçal Karoui at the public working sessions and the showcase on 4 June 2022 at Kwai Tsing Theatre. Yip demonstrated creative compositional techniques in composing this humorous tongue-in-cheek work. The piece reached a subtle balance between Western classical music and jazz elements with unique sound effects.

The HK Phil is committed to nurturing Hong Kong compositional talents and promoting the works of Chinese composers through commissions and performances overseas. Sponsored by The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong and organised by the HK Phil, the Composers Scheme has provided a platform for local emerging composers to broaden their orchestral writing experience since its launch in 2018. The selected composers receive guidance and feedback from HK Phil’s principals and musicians, a designated composer mentor as well as a guest conductor. The recently completed second cohort saw esteemed British composer Charlotte Bray and French conductor Fayçal Karoui working with six talented Hong Kong composers: Carmen Ho Ka-man, Kam Shing-hei, Tsang Lok-yan, Adrian Wong Chi-chun, Simon Yip Sai-man and Bonnie Yung Sin-kan. Each year, one composer is awarded a commission following the showcase. The Composers Scheme Showcase can be viewed at youtu.be/rYCEBUBgAmQ.

The new work by Yip will receive its world premiere at “[Jaap | Shostakovich 5](#)” on 9 & 10 December 2022. Conducted by HK Phil Music Director Jaap van Zweden, the programme also boasts Shostakovich’s Fifth Symphony and Prokofiev’s First Violin Concerto. Tickets are now available at URBTIX. Please visit the [HK Phil website](#) for more details.

Apart from promoting new work by local compositional talents through The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong Composers Scheme, the HK Phil will perform two more co-commissioned works in the 2022/23 Season: Tan Dun’s Trombone Concerto *Three Muses in Video Game*, which will be premiered in Asia at the “[National Day Concert: Tan Dun & Bruckner](#)” (16 & 17 September 2022); and John Borstlap’s Violin Concerto no. 2, *Dreamscape Voyage*, which will be world premiered at “[Swire Maestro Series: Jaap | Mahler 1](#)” (18 & 19 November 2022).

[Download](#) press image



Simon Yip Sai-man

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden, SBS

Principal Guest Conductor: Yu Long

Resident Conductor: Lio Kuokman, JP

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. Recently the HK Phil won the prestigious UK classical music magazine *Gramophone's* 2019 Orchestra of the Year Award – the first orchestra in Asia to receive this accolade.

Jaap van Zweden, SBS, one of today's most sought-after conductors, has been the orchestra's Music Director since the 2012/13 Season, a position he holds through the end of the 2023/24 Season. 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, JP has been appointed Resident Conductor since December 2020.

Under the dynamic leadership of Jaap van Zweden, the HK Phil has attained new heights of artistic excellence, receiving 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 were enthusiastically received by audiences, and the live Naxos recordings were praised by critics, and garnered the *Gramophone* Orchestra of the Year Award 2019.

The HK Phil has toured 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 of the People's Republic of China.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Joshua Bell, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, Renée Fleming, Ning Feng, Stephen Hough, Evgeny Kissin, Katia and Marielle Labèque, Lang Lang, Yo-Yo Ma, 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 The 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.

Thanks to a significant subsidy from the Government of the HKSAR and long-term funding from Principal Patron Swire, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and other supporters, the HK Phil now boasts a full-time annual schedule of core classical repertoire and innovative popular programming, extensive education and community programmes, and collaborations with, amongst others, Hong Kong Ballet, Opera Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

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 registered 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.