

HK Phil Music Director Maestro Jaap Van Zweden Returns to Open the 2022/23 Season

Season Opening: JAAP | Beethoven 9 (9 & 10 September)
National Day Concert: Tan Dun & Bruckner (16 & 17 September)

[25 August 2022, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) opens its 2022/23 Season with Music Director [Jaap van Zweden](#) returning to Hong Kong to conduct two splendid programmes in two consecutive weeks of September – **Season Opening: JAAP | Beethoven 9 on 9 & 10 September 2022 (Fri & Sat)**, and **National Day Concert: Tan Dun & Bruckner on 16 & 17 September 2022 (Fri & Sat)**, both in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall.

The tickets for the Season Opening: JAAP | Beethoven 9 (9 & 10 September) have been sold out, and the tickets for National Day Concert: Tan Dun & Bruckner (16 & 17 September) are selling fast. Join us this season to celebrate classical music that is timeless and transcendent together!

Season Opening: JAAP | Beethoven 9 (9 & 10 September)

In the Season Opening programme, Music Director Jaap van Zweden, the HK Phil and a combined chorus of over 100 voices will present Beethoven's epic Ninth Symphony. From its tragic opening to its jubilant "Ode to Joy" finale, this symphony is one of the greatest emotional journeys in all music. Under the baton of van Zweden, the triumphant culmination of Beethoven's symphonic work comes to life in its full glory. Joining this extravaganza are soprano Louise Kwong, mezzo-soprano Caitlin Hulcup, tenor Barry Banks, bass-baritone Shenyang, Die Konzertisten and the HK Phil Chorus. The concert will open with Mozart's elegant, playful Piano Concerto no. 22, played by virtuoso pianist Avan Yu.

Season Opening: JAAP | Beethoven 9 will be held on 9 & 10 September 2022 (Fri & Sat) at 8PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$1,080, \$800, \$520 and \$380 have been sold out. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Title Sponsor of Opening Night Concert: UOB

National Day Concert: Tan Dun & Bruckner (16 & 17 September)

Described as "the leading interpreter of Bruckner's symphonies" by *BBC Music Magazine*, van Zweden will conduct Bruckner's monumental Symphony no. 7 at the National Day Concert. Widely regarded as one of Bruckner's greatest successes, the Symphony no. 7 was composed in the times of upheaval, and it articulates the composer's inner strength. The Asian Premiere of Tan Dun's Trombone Concerto *Three Muses in Video Game* will serve as the concert opener, featuring the original dedicatee Jörgen van Rijen as soloist. As a contemporary homage to video games, this Trombone Concerto is very different from Bruckner's work but equally amazing in its own right.

National Day Concert: Tan Dun & Bruckner will be held on 16 & 17 September 2022 (Fri & Sat) at 8PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Limited tickets priced at HK\$680, \$560, \$420 and \$300 are available at URBTIX and POPTICKET. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Co-sponsors of 16 September Performance:

The Hong Kong Chinese Enterprises Association and China Minsheng Bank Corp., LTD. Hong Kong Branch

Sponsor of 17 September Performance: CMB Wing Lung Bank

SEASON OPENING: JAAP | BEETHOVEN 9

Artists

Jaap van Zweden, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Over the past decade, conductor Jaap van Zweden has become an international presence on three continents. Currently Music Director of the HK Phil, he is also Music Director of the New York Philharmonic and Conductor Laureate of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared as guest conductor with leading orchestras such as, in Europe, the Orchestre de Paris, Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, the Berlin Philharmonic and the London Symphony Orchestra, and, in the US, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra and Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Avan Yu, piano [\[full description\]](#)

One of Canada's most exciting young pianists, Avan Yu achieved international recognition when he triumphed at the Sydney International Piano Competition in 2012, winning First Prize along with nine special awards. He has performed extensively throughout Europe, North America, Asia and Australia, at venues such as the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Koerner Hall in Toronto, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Philharmonie in Berlin, the Salle Cortot in Paris and the Sydney Opera House.

Louise Kwong, soprano [\[full description\]](#)

Louise Kwong's musical achievements are recognised by being awarded one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons Awards in 2019, and the Young Artist Award by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council in 2014. Internationally, she made debuts at the Rome Opera House as Mimì in *La Bohème*, and as Micaëla in *Carmen* at Caracalla Rome. She has performed in different opera houses such as the Concertgebouw of Amsterdam and the Graz Opera House of Austria.

Caitlin Hulcup, mezzo-soprano [\[full description\]](#)

Caitlin Hulcup has appeared at leading opera houses internationally, including the Wiener Staatsoper, the Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin and the Royal Opera House London. She made her debut at the Wiener Staatsoper in 2004 as Enriquetta (*I Puritani*). Since then roles have included Octavian (*Der Rosenkavalier*) for Maggio Musicale Fiorentino with Zubin Mehta in a new production by Lorenzo Mariani, and for the Bolshoi Theatre with Vassily Sinaisky, Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*) for the Palau de les Arts Valencia with Mehta, etc.

Barry Banks, tenor [\[full description\]](#)

Barry Banks's performances of the leading bel canto roles by Bellini, Rossini and Donizetti have taken him to the world's leading opera houses including The Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera House, the Covent Garden, the Gran Teatre del Liceu, the Salzburg Festival and the Wiener Staatsoper. This 2022/23 Season, Banks makes his role debut as Mime (*Das Rheingold*) at the Dallas Opera conducted by Emmanuel Villaume, and he returns to Los Angeles Opera in the West Coast premiere of Michael Abel's *Omar*.

Shenyang, bass-baritone [\[full description\]](#)

Winner of the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World in 2007, Shenyang was immediately propelled into the spotlight with an array of international engagements including debuts at the Metropolitan Opera, the Glyndebourne Festival, the Bayerische Staatsoper, the Opernhaus Zürich and the Washington National Opera. A decade on, he has established himself as one of the finest voices of his generation, and amassed an expansive repertoire for both the opera and concert stages.

Die Konzertisten, chorus [\[full description\]](#)

Established in 2008, Die Konzertisten (DK) is recognised as one of Hong Kong's foremost chamber choirs. DK performs repertoire ranging from Renaissance polyphony and Baroque masterpieces to Romantic delicacies and newly commissioned works. DK regularly collaborates with internationally distinguished artists and has appeared in many of Hong Kong Arts Festival's programmes. A keen advocate of Baroque music, DK ardently promotes the historically informed performance of early music to the local audience.

Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus, chorus [\[full description\]](#)

Established in 1980, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus collaborates with the HK Phil to perform a range of different works. In 2013, the Chorus undertook a new recruitment drive, and over 450 singers were attracted to attend the auditions. The first performance by the reformed Chorus was Handel's *Messiah*. Since then, the Chorus has performed with the HK Phil in major works by composers including Britten, Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Haydn and Mahler under renowned conductors Lorin Maazel, Nicholas McGegan and Jaap van Zweden. The Fellows programme was launched in the 2020/21 Season.

SEASON OPENING: JAAP | BEETHOVEN 9

9 & 10 | 9 | 2022

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#)

conductor

[Avan Yu](#)

piano

[Louise Kwong](#)

soprano

[Caitlin Hulcup](#)

mezzo-soprano

[Barry Banks](#)

tenor

[Shenyang](#)

bass-baritone

[Die Konzertisten](#)

chorus

[Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus](#)

chorus

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Jaap van Zweden
Photo: Eric Hong



Avan Yu
Photo: William Oh



Louise Kwong



Caitlin Hulcup
Photo: Robert Catto



Barry Banks
Photo: Terrence McCarthy



Shenyang
Photo: Shiyi Pan



Die Konzertisten
Photo: Yatho Tsang



Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus
Photo: HK Phil



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo: Ka Lam/HK Phil

Programme

MOZART Piano Concerto no. 22
BEETHOVEN Symphony no. 9

NATIONAL DAY CONCERT: TAN DUN & BRUCKNER

Artists

Jaap van Zweden, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Over the past decade, conductor Jaap van Zweden has become an international presence on three continents. Currently Music Director of the HK Phil, he is also Music Director of the New York Philharmonic and Conductor Laureate of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared as guest conductor with leading orchestras such as, in Europe, the Orchestre de Paris, Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, the Berlin Philharmonic and the London Symphony Orchestra, and, in the US, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra and Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Jörgen van Rijen, trombone [\[full description\]](#)

Principal trombonist of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Jörgen van Rijen is in demand as a soloist with a commitment to promoting his instrument, developing new repertoire for the trombone and bringing the existing repertoire to a broader audience. A specialist on both the modern and baroque trombone, he has performed as a soloist all over the globe as well as performed concertos with orchestras including the Czech Philharmonic and the Rotterdam Philharmonic. He was awarded the Netherlands Music Prize in 2004 and the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award in 2006.

NATIONAL DAY CONCERT: TAN DUN & BRUCKNER

16 & 17 | 9 | 2022

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$680 \$560 \$420 \$300

Tickets now available at [URBTIX](#) and [POPTICKET](#)

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#) conductor

[Jörgen van Rijen](#) trombone

[Download](#) press images



Jaap van Zweden
Photo: Eric Hong



Jörgen van Rijen
Photo: Marco Borggreve



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo: Ka Lam/HK Phil

Programme

TAN Dun
BRUCKNER

Three Muses in Video Game, Trombone Concerto (Asia Premiere)
Symphony no. 7

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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 will hold until 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, it 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 it 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 to facilitate 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.

香港管弦協會有限公司 The Hong Kong Philharmonic Society Ltd

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