

**Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Presents
Two Swire Denim Series Concerts
Featuring Popular Film Music and Symphonic Fairy Tale to
Comfort Your Soul**

Celebrating John Williams (25 & 26 February)
Merregnon: Land of Silence (17 & 18 March)

[3 February 2023, Hong Kong] Swire Denim Series returns! From February to March 2023, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) will present two concerts of the series, with all-time favourite film music by renowned Hollywood film music composer John Williams on 25 & 26 February 2023, and the Asia premier of an original symphonic fairy tale named *Merregnon: Land of Silence* featuring delightful music and on-screen illustrations on 17 & 18 March 2023, respectively. Tickets are now available at URBTIX and POPTICKET. Join the HK Phil for these family-friendly concerts, and let your imagination bloom in the musical journey to the worlds of fantasy!

Swire Denim Series: Celebrating John Williams (25 & 26 February)



Conducted by Benjamin Northey, this programme is dedicated to the greatest of all film-composers – John Williams. Music includes *Jaws*, *Schindler's List*, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, *E.T.*, *Jurassic Park* and *Star Wars*. This concert also features HK Phil Principal Tuba Paul Luxenberg in the third movement of Williams' Tuba Concerto.

"Swire Denim Series: Celebrating John Williams" will be held on 25 February 2023 (Sat) at 3PM in the Tuen Mun Town Hall Auditorium with tickets priced at HK\$420, \$320 and \$220 and on 26 February 2023 (Sun) at 3PM & 8PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall with tickets priced at HK\$480, \$380 and \$280. Tickets for the three performances are available at URBTIX and POPTICKET. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Swire Denim Series: Merregnon: Land of Silence (17 & 18 March)



Performed with delightful music, narration, and illustrations, *Merregon: Land of Silence* presents the wonder of a symphony to a broad audience, with a special focus on younger people, families and video game fans. Featuring original music by internationally-renowned composer Yoko Shimomura (famous for her work on *Kingdom Hearts* and *Final Fantasy XV*), and a story by popular German children's author Frauke Angel, *Merregon: Land of Silence* tells of orphan Miru, who along with her childhood friend Hikito and faithful dog Mako, set out on an unforgettable adventure to discover what ails the mysteriously silent land of Merregon. The concert is conducted by Lorenzo Losco and hosted by Vivek Mahbubani.

"Swire Denim Series: Merregon: Land of Silence" will be held on 17 March 2023 (Fri) at 8PM and 18 March 2023 (Sat) at 3PM in the Tuen Mun Town Hall Auditorium. Tickets priced at HK\$300 and \$250 are available at URBITX and POPTICKET. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Artists

Swire Denim Series: Celebrating John Williams **Benjamin Northey, conductor** [\[full description\]](#)

Australian conductor Benjamin Northey is the Chief Conductor of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and the Principal Conductor in Residence of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Previously Resident Guest Conductor of the Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra (2002-2006) and Principal Conductor of the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra (2007-2010), *Limelight* Magazine named him Australian Artist of the Year in 2018. Northey also appears regularly as a guest conductor with all major Australian symphony orchestras. In 2022, he conducts the Christchurch and New Zealand Symphony Orchestras and all six Australian state symphony orchestras.

Paul Luxenberg, tuba [\[full description\]](#)

Principal Tuba of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra since 2001, Californian tuba player Paul Luxenberg is also faculty member at Hong Kong Baptist University, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Having earned his Bachelor's and Master's at The Juilliard School, he has worked with the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestras, Los Angeles and Moscow Chamber Orchestras, Melbourne, Singapore, and Kyushu Symphony Orchestras, *Chicago the Musical* (Hollywood), Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, American and Manhattan Brass Quintets.

Swire Denim Series: Merregon: Land of Silence

Lorenzo Losco, conductor [\[full description\]](#)

Lorenzo Losco is an Italian clarinettist and conductor based in Hong Kong where he is a member of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. He has been a member at Madrid Opera House Teatro Real in Spain and London Symphony Orchestra respectively. As soloist, he performed all major clarinet repertoire in Europe and Asia. He is also the founder and Artistic Director of Ensemble Ubertini, a chamber orchestra based in Tuscany. In 2021, Lorenzo made his conducting debut with the HK Phil.

Vivek Mahbubani, presenter [\[full description\]](#)

Vivek Mahbubani is a Hong Kong-bred bilingual stand-up comedian performing in both Cantonese and English. Having been crowned the Funniest Person (in Chinese category) in Hong Kong in 2007, followed by his victory in the English category at the Hong Kong International Comedy Competition in 2008, Mahbubani has taken his sense of humour all over the world. Having been ranked as the top comedian in Hong Kong, in 2014, the World Famous Laugh Factory in the US ranked Vivek as one of the top ten comedians in their annual Funniest Person in the World Competition.

SWIRE DENIM SERIES: CELEBRATING JOHN WILLIAMS

25 | 2 | 2023

SAT 3PM

Tuen Mun Town Hall Auditorium

HK\$420 \$320 \$220

26 | 2 | 2023

SUN 3PM & 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$480 \$380 \$280

Tickets now available at URBTIX and POPTICKET

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Benjamin Northey](#)

[Paul Luxenberg](#)

conductor

tuba

[Download](#) press images



Benjamin Northey
Photo: Laura Manariti



Paul Luxenberg
Photo: Eric Hong/HK Phil



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo: Ka Lam/HK Phil

SWIRE DENIM SERIES: MERREGNON: LAND OF SILENCE

17 & 18 | 3 | 2023

FRI 8PM

SAT 3PM

Tuen Mun Town Hall Auditorium

HK\$300 \$250

Tickets now available at URBTIX and POPTICKET

For ages 3 and above

Artists

[Lorenzo losco](#)

conductor

[Vivek Mahbubani](#)

presenter

Programme

Yoko SHIMOMURA

Merregnon: Land of Silence (Asia Premiere)

Live orchestra performance with illustrations

Narrated in Cantonese with English subtitles

[Download](#) press images



Lorenzo losco



Vivek Mahbubani



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo: Ka Lam/HK Phil

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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 one of Asia's foremost classical orchestras. 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 was appointed Resident Conductor in 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. Founded in 2021, "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.