

PRESS RELEASE
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Jaap van Zweden, Acclaimed Violinist Tianwa Yang and the HK Phil Embark on Tour to Nanjing and Shanghai Celebrating the HK Phil's 50th Professional Season 1 & 2 September 2023

[4 August 2023, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is thrilled to kick off its 50th professional season with an exciting tour in Nanjing and Shanghai on 1 and 2 September 2023. Led by Music Director Jaap van Zweden, the HK Phil will present three Mendelssohn's programmes in these two concerts, featuring virtuoso violinist Tianwa Yang. These performances are made possible with the support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Tianwa Yang has been hailed as "an unquestioned master of the violin" (*American Record Guide*), and as an artist who "rises above her competition" (*Fanfare*). In the upcoming concerts in Nanjing and Shanghai, she will perform Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, a piece beloved by both violinists and music enthusiasts worldwide.

The evening begins with Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides Overture*, which portrays the violent seas off the west coast of Scotland. It concludes with Mendelssohn's Symphony no. 4, filling the concert halls with blazing colours and sunbeams of Italy, the travel destination that inspired this piece.

The HK Phil has forged a strong relationship with Mainland China since its debut performance in 1986, including numerous concerts conducted by Jaap van Zweden since the 2013/14 Season. These performances have received high praise from critics and audiences alike. The HK Phil is honoured to return and reunite with the Mainland audience for the first time in almost four years after the pandemic, under the baton of Jaap van Zweden.

As the HK Phil celebrates its 50th anniversary during the 2023/24 Season, the orchestra aims not only to continue presenting world-class concerts to the Hong Kong audience, but also to bring the finest music-making outside of Hong Kong. The orchestra will embark on an exhilarating journey to more than 18 cities in Mainland China, Asia and Europe, sharing the beauty of music and forging connections with audiences from every corner of the world. The concerts at the Jiangsu Centre for the Performing Arts Concert Hall and the Shanghai Oriental Art Center Concert Hall, held on 1 and 2 September 2023 respectively, mark the commencement of this highly anticipated tour that celebrates the orchestra's golden jubilee.

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. He has appeared as guest conductor with leading orchestras such as, in Europe, the Orchestra 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.

Tianwa Yang, violin [\[full description\]](#)

Winner of the prestigious OPUS KLASSIK Instrumentalist of the Year (Violin) in 2022 for her Naxos recording of Prokofiev's two Violin Concertos, and in 2015 for her Naxos recording Ysaÿe's six Sonatas for Solo Violin, Tianwa Yang is referred to as "an unquestioned master of the violin" (*American Record Guide*) and as an artist who "rises above her competition" (*Fanfare*). She performs with such major orchestras as the Detroit, Seattle, Baltimore, Nashville, Kansas City, Virginia, Vancouver, WDR-Cologne, HR Radio Frankfurt and New Zealand Symphonies; the London, Helsinki, Hong Kong, BBC, Warsaw and Royal Liverpool Philharmonics; Bayerisches Staatsorchester, Orchestre National d'Île de France, Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg and Macau Orchestra.

JAAP VAN ZWEDEN & TIANWA YANG HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

1 | 9 | 2023

FRI 7:30PM

Jiangsu Centre for the Performing Arts Concert Hall

RMB ¥780 ¥580 ¥384 ¥224 ¥144 ¥64

JAAP VAN ZWEDEN & HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

2 | 9 | 2023

SAT 7:30PM

Shanghai Oriental Art Center Concert Hall

RMB ¥880 ¥680 ¥480 ¥280 ¥180

Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#)

conductor

[Tianwa Yang](#)

violin

Programme

MEDELSSOHN

The Hebrides Overture

MEDELSSOHN

Violin Concerto

MEDELSSOHN

Symphony no. 4, *Italian*

[Download](#) press images



Jaap van Zweden
Photo: Eric Hong/HK Phil



Tianwa Yang



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo: Keith Hiro/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. 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. Following his tenure as Music Director, he will hold the title of Conductor Laureate. Jaap 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 well received, 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. The orchestra 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. In the 2023/24 Season, the orchestra will embark on global tours to more than 18 cities.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Anja Bihlmaier, Stéphane Denève, Christoph Eschenbach, Paavo Järvi, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Tarmo Peltokoski, Vasily Petrenko, Krzysztof Urbanski, Ning Feng, Boris Giltburg, Leonidas Kavakos, Olivier Latry and Akiko Suwanai. 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, each conducting their own compositions.

The HK Phil runs diverse education and community programmes in schools, hospitals and outdoor spaces, bringing 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 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.