

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Date: 13 October 2023

## **Jaap van Zweden, Lio Kuokman and the HK Phil Return to the Greater Bay Area in November 2023**

**[13 October 2023, Hong Kong]** As a cultural ambassador of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is committed to participating in cultural exchange, showcasing the artistic excellence of Hong Kong locally, nationally, and internationally. After a gap of almost four years since its last tour to the Greater Bay Area due to the pandemic, the HK Phil is thrilled to return for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Under the batons of Music Director Jaap van Zweden and Resident Conductor Lio Kuokman, a total of three concerts will be staged at the Xinghai Concert Hall in Guangzhou on 10 and 24 November 2023 and at the Shenzhen Concert Hall on 25 November 2023 respectively.

### **Xinghai Concert Hall 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season**

#### **Jaap van Zweden & HK Phil: Mahler Symphony No. 1 (10 November)**

Marking the golden jubilee of the HK Phil and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of Xinghai Concert Hall, Jaap van Zweden will bring the Guangzhou audience a symphonic feast. Beethoven's *Leonore Overture no. 3* distills *Fidelio* opera into a 15-minute orchestral adventure, while Tchaikovsky's *Capriccio Italien* captures the carnival atmosphere on the streets of Italy. Mahler embraces everything in his symphonies – the inspirations for the First Symphony include the soundscape of his childhood, the rustic Ländler, a nursery rhyme and a melody he heard at a dinner party.

“Xinghai Concert Hall 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season – Jaap van Zweden & HK Phil: Mahler Symphony No. 1” will be held on 10 November 2023 (Fri) at 8PM at the Xinghai Concert Hall Symphony Hall in Guangzhou. Tickets are priced at RMB ¥880, ¥680, ¥480, ¥280, and ¥180. For ticketing information, please visit [wap.concerthall.com.cn](http://wap.concerthall.com.cn).

### **Xinghai Concert Hall 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season**

#### **Lio Kuokman & HK Phil: From Gershwin to Williams (24 November)**

Led by Lio Kuokman, the HK Phil will present a night of all-time greatest hits from blockbuster movies by John Williams, Broadway musicals by Bernstein, and Gershwin's iconic concerto of the Jazz Age New York, together with HK Phil Principal Cello Richard Bamping, as well as sopranos Louise Kwong and Vivian Yau. Lio Kuokman will play the piano part of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

“Xinghai Concert Hall 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season – Lio Kuokman & HK Phil: From Gershwin to Williams” will be held on 24 November 2023 (Fri) at 8PM at the Xinghai Concert Hall Symphony Hall in Guangzhou. Tickets are priced at RMB ¥480, ¥380, ¥280 and ¥180. For ticketing information, please visit [wap.concerthall.com.cn](http://wap.concerthall.com.cn).

### **Shenzhen Concert Hall**

#### **Lio Kuokman and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Concert (25 November)**

The HK Phil celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Dvořák's Ninth Symphony, *From the New World*. Lio Kuokman plays the piano solo and leads the orchestra in Gershwin's iconic concerto *Rhapsody in Blue*, bringing to life the glamorous Jazz Age New York of the roaring twenties. Opening the concert is Bernstein's popular Broadway classic *Candide Overture* and Three Dance Episodes from *On the Town*.

“Shenzhen Concert Hall – Lio Kuokman and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Concert” will be held on 25 November 2023 (Sat) at 8PM at the Shenzhen Concert Hall Symphony Hall. Tickets are priced at RMB ¥480, ¥380, ¥280, ¥180 and ¥80. For ticketing information, please visit [www.szyyt.com](http://www.szyyt.com).

\*\*\*

## **XINGHAI CONCERT HALL 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON** **JAAP VAN ZWEDEN & HK PHIL: MAHLER SYMPHONY NO. 1**

### 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.

### **XINGHAI CONCERT HALL 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON** **JAAP VAN ZWEDEN & HK PHIL: MAHLER SYMPHONY NO. 1**

10 | 11 | 2023

FRI 8PM

Xinghai Concert Hall Symphony Hall

RMB ¥880 ¥680 ¥480 ¥280 ¥180

### Artists

[Jaap van Zweden](#) conductor

### Programme

<b>BEETHOVEN</b>	<i>Leonore Overture no. 3</i>
<b>TCHAIKOVSKY</b>	<i>Capriccio Italien</i>
<b>MAHLER</b>	Symphony no. 1

[Download](#) [press images](#)



**Jaap van Zweden**  
Photo: Eric Hong/HK Phil



**Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**  
Photo: Keith Hiro/HK Phil

\*\*\*

## **XINGHAI CONCERT HALL 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON** **LIO KUOKMAN & HK PHIL: FROM GERSHWIN TO WILLIAMS**

### **Artists**

#### **Lio Kuokman, conductor/piano** [\[full description\]](#)

Currently Resident Conductor of the HK Phil, Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Macao Orchestra, and Programme Director of the Macao International Music Festival, Lio Kuokman was praised by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as “a startling conducting talent”. He won the second prize, Audience Prize and Orchestra Prize at the third Svetlanov International Conducting Competition in Paris, and served as the first Chinese Assistant Conductor at the Philadelphia Orchestra. He has successfully collaborated with many leading orchestras across the globe.

#### **Richard Bamping, cello** [\[full description\]](#)

Richard Bamping has been Principal Cello of the HK Phil since 1993. He has performed with many of the finest musicians of recent history – Lord Yehudi Menuhin, Leonidas Kavakos, Mstislav Rostropovich, Carlo Maria Giulini, Valery Gergiev, Leonard Bernstein, Lorin Maazel, Sir Colin Davis and Claudio Abbado, to name but a few. Bamping has performed many of the staples of the solo cello repertoire with orchestras from Europe to the Far East. He has a great passion for playing chamber music with friends and colleagues whenever he gets the chance.

#### **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 in Austria.

#### **Vivian Yau, soprano** [\[full description\]](#)

Hailed as “a light, silvery, bright soprano with impressive coloratura” (*The Aspen Times*), Hong Kong soprano Vivian Yau has collaborated with renowned orchestras and opera companies such as the HK Phil, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Macao Orchestra, and West Edge Opera. Recent highlights include performing the role of Rosina in *The Barber of Seville* with both Aspen Opera Center and the Mediterranean Opera Festival, the title role of Silent Opera UK's immersive production *Vixen* at the 2023 Hong Kong Arts Festival, title role in the world premiere of Pierangelo Valtinoni's *Alice in Wonderland* at the 2021 Hong Kong Arts Festival, and her Carnegie Hall debut in Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* alongside The Cecilia Chorus of New York.

**XINGHAI CONCERT HALL 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON**  
**LIO KUOKMAN & HK PHIL: FROM GERSHWIN TO WILLIAMS**

24 | 11 | 2023

FRI 8PM

Xinghai Concert Hall Symphony Hall

RMB ¥480 ¥380 ¥280 ¥180

**Artists**

[Lio Kuokman](#) conductor/piano  
[Richard Bamping](#) cello  
[Louise Kwong](#) soprano  
[Vivian Yau](#) soprano

**Programme**

**John WILLIAMS** *Summon the Heroes*  
**GERSHWIN** *Porgy and Bess: Summertime*  
**John WILLIAMS** *Schindler's List Theme*  
**GERSHWIN** *Rhapsody in Blue*  
**BERNSTEIN** *Candide Overture*  
**BERNSTEIN** *Candide: Glitter and Be Gay*  
**BERNSTEIN** Three Dance Episodes from *On the Town*  
**John WILLIAMS** *E.T.: Adventures on Earth*

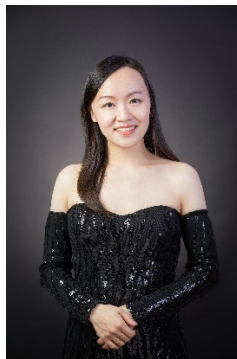
[Download](#) press images



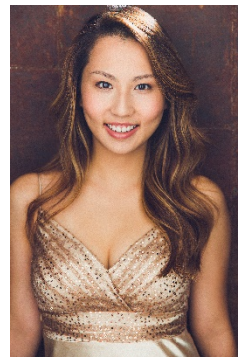
**Lio Kuokman**  
Photo: Jane Chiang



**Richard Bamping**  
Photo: Michael Li Yam/HK Phil



**Louise Kwong**



**Vivian Yau**  
Photo: David Noles



**Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**  
Photo: Ka Lam/HK Phil

\*\*\*

## SHENZHEN CONCERT HALL LIO KUOKMAN AND HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CONCERT

### Artists

#### Lio Kuokman, conductor/piano [\[full description\]](#)

Currently Resident Conductor of the HK Phil, Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Macao Orchestra, and Programme Director of the Macao International Music Festival, Lio Kuokman was praised by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as "a startling conducting talent". He won the second prize, Audience Prize and Orchestra Prize at the third Svetlanov International Conducting Competition in Paris, and served as the first Chinese Assistant Conductor at the Philadelphia Orchestra. He has successfully collaborated with many leading orchestras across the globe.

### SHENZHEN CONCERT HALL

#### LIO KUOKMAN AND HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CONCERT

25 | 11 | 2023

SAT 8PM

Shenzhen Concert Hall Symphony Hall

RMB ¥480 ¥380 ¥280 ¥180 ¥80

### Artists

[Lio Kuokman](#)

conductor/piano

### Programme

BERNSTEIN

*Candide* Overture

BERNSTEIN

Three Dance Episodes from *On the Town*

GERSHWIN

*Rhapsody in Blue*

DVOŘÁK

Symphony no. 9

[Download](#) [press images](#)



Lio Kuokman  
Photo: Jane Chiang



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra  
Photo: Ka Lam/HK Phil

--- END ---

---

For further press information please contact:

**Dennis Wu, Director of Marketing**

Tel: +852 2721 9035 Email: [dennis.wu@hkphil.org](mailto:dennis.wu@hkphil.org)

**Emily Hui, Media Relations & Communications Manager**

Tel: +852 2721 1585 Email: [emily.hui@hkphil.org](mailto:emily.hui@hkphil.org)

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.