

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 19 Dec 2022

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Gala Dinner at Hong Kong Palace Museum

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[13 December 2022, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) held a Gala Dinner at the Hong Kong Palace Museum on December 13, 2022 (Tuesday), with Mr. Joe Wong, Permanent Secretary of the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, as the Guest of honour.

The fundraising dinner was led by Mrs Janice Choi as the honorable advisor, Ms Sarah Wong as the chair of the organising committee, Ms Angela Yau, Ms Melody Xu and Mrs Monica Cheung Mok as members of the organising committee, with the support of the Hong Kong Palace Museum in the planning and preparation.

The dinner received tremendous support from all sectors, and was attended by many distinguished guests in the city. The guests included Mr & Mrs Kenneth Fok and Guo Jingjing, Dr John van Praag and Ms Pat Fok, Dr Jonathan Choi and Mrs Janice Choi, Hong Kong Palace Museum Chairman Ms Winnie Tam, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Chief Executive Officer Mrs Betty Fung, Rocco Design Architects Associates Principal Dr Rocco Yim, Hong Kong Palace Museum Museum Director Dr Louis Ng. Guests from political sector included former Chief Executive of HKSAR Mrs Carrie Lam, member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Mr Lo Man-tuen, Secretary for Justice Mr Paul Lam, and former Secretary for Justice Ms Elsie Leung. Guests from commercial sector included Chairman and Executive Director of ICBC (Asia) Ms Gao Ming, and CEO and Executive President of Bank of China International Holdings Limited Ms Li Tong. Guests of our Partners included publisher of Vogue Hong Kong Ms Desiree Au, Rosewood Hong Kong Mr Paolo Pong & Ms Sonia Cheng, and Director of Christie's Education Asia Pacific Ms Sara Mao.

HK Phil Chairman of Board of Governors, Mr David Cogman said, "as a cultural ambassador of Hong Kong, the HK Phil has been proactively enriching the cultural life of our society and has made significant contributions to the popularization of classical music. It is only through the support of our friends and sponsors that we could have had these achievements. The funds raised from the dinner will sustain the long-term development of the HK Phil and benefit our community."

"Hong Kong has a very diverse arts and cultural development. The hosting of the Gala Dinner in the Hong Kong Palace Museum makes a marvellous blending of the enchanting Western music with the

priceless Palace Museum treasures. This is a perfect manifestation of such diversity, and underlines Hong Kong' s unique status as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange. I sincerely hope that HK Phil will see even greater accomplishments in future," said Mr Joe Wong, Permanent Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism.

It was an eventful evening commencing with the guided viewing of Hong Kong Palace Museum. Before the dinner, guests were welcome to visit selected galleries in the museum. During the dinner, HK Phil Concertmaster Jing Wang, Korean violinist Zia Shin and Hong Kong pianist Colleen Lee performed Moszkowski Suite in G minor for two violins and piano, op. 71: 1st Movement; HK Phil Second Associate Concertmaster Wang Liang, Principal Viola Andrew Ling, Assistant Principal Cello Dora Lam, Co-Principal Clarinet John Schertle & Hong Kong pianist Colleen Lee performed Elliot LEUNG Quintet No. 2 "Gardiner Expressway" . Dr Rocco Yim, Principal of Rocco Design Architects Associates, who designed the Hong Kong Palace Museum, shared his philosophy and principles in designing the iconic new landmark. Lastly, pianist Niu Niu played pieces from his new album "Lifetime".

Chair of the Organising Committee Ms Sarah Wong said: "In addition to the donations and support from all the participants, the dinner was a great success because of the sponsorships from our friends and partners, providing auction items, gifts and major discounts, etc. to support the development of the HK Phil. The organising committee was very touched by their enthusiastic response and staunch support, and the fund raised from the dinner will sustain the HK Phil' s development, giving Hong Kong a world-class orchestra."

The HK Phil would like to give its heartfelt thanks to the following Gala Dinner Organising Committee Members:

Honorary Adviser: Mrs Janice Choi, BBS, MH, JP, Chevalier del'ordre des Arts et des Lettres

Chair: Ms Sarah Wong

Members: Ms Angela Yau, Ms Melody Xu and Mrs Monica Cheung Mok



Welcome Address by Mr David Cogman
Chairman, Hong Kong Philharmonic Society
Limited



Speech by Mr Wong Chi Cho, Joe, JP
Permanent Secretary for Culture, Sports and
Tourism, HKSAR



Vote of Thanks by HK Phil Gala Dinner Organising Committee Chair Ms Sarah Wong



HK Phil Concertmaster Jing Wang, Korean violinist Zia Shin and Hong Kong pianist Colleen Lee



HK Phil Second Associate Concertmaster Wang Liang, Principal Viola Andrew Ling, Assistant Principal Cello Dora Lam, Co-Principal Clarinet John Schertle & Hong Kong pianist Colleen Lee



Dr Rocco Yim, Architect of Hong Kong Palace Museum



Director of Christie's Education Asia Pacific Ms Sara Mao hosted the auction session.



Pianist Niu Niu



(From the left) Gala Dinner Organising Committee Member Ms Melody Xu, Mrs Monica Cheung Mok, HK Phil Chairman Mr David Cogman, HKSAR Permanent Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Wong Chi Cho, Joe, Gala Dinner Organising Committee Honorary Adviser Mrs Janice Choi, Chair Ms Sarah Wong, and HK Phil Fundraising Committee Chair Ms Angela Yau



(Back row) Dr Rocco Yim, Dr Gabriel Leung, Ms Leonie Ki, Ms Bonny Wong, Dr Louis Ng
(Front row) Ms Elsie Leung, Mr Paolo Pong and Ms Sonia Cheng, Ms Betty Fung



Mr and Mrs Kenneth Fok and Guo Jingjing, (centre) HK Phil Executive Director Mrs Vennie Ho



(From the left) Ms Jin Ling, HK Phil Board member Mrs Christine Ip, Gala Dinner Organising Committee Honorary Adviser Mrs Janice Choi, former Chief Executive of HKSAR Mrs Carrie Lam, Museum Director of Hong Kong Palace Museum Dr Louis Ng



Ms Pat Fok and Dr John van Praag



(From the left) Hong Kong Palace Museum Chairman and HK Phil Board member Ms Winnie Tam, Secretary for Justice Mr and Mrs Paul Lam



(From the left) Member of The Standing Committee Of National Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Dr Albert Hung, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities and Community Executive Director Dr Gabriel Leung, member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Mr Lo Man-tuen



(From the left) CEO and Executive President of Bank of China International Holdings Limited Ms Li Tong, Member of The Standing Committee Of National Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Ms Zhu Yanlai, Chairman and Executive Director of ICBC (Asia) Ms Gao Ming



(From the left) HK Phil Gala Dinner Organising Committee Chair Ms Sarah Wong, HK Phil Board member Mr Sonny Yau, Parsons Music President Ms Arling Ng, Gala Dinner Organising Committee member Ms Melody Xu, Hong Kong Palace Museum Chairman and HK Phil Board member Ms Winnie Tam, HK Phil Chairman Mr David Cogman, HKSAR Culture, Sports and Tourism Permanent Secretary Mr Joe Wong, Sun Wah Group Executive Director & Vice President Mr Johnson Choi, HK Phil Board member Dr Allen Fung, Member of The Standing Committee Of National Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Dr Albert Hung, Foundation for Amazing Potentials Founder Mr Steven Ying, HK Phil Fundraising Committee Chair Ms Angela Yau, Wheelock CRM & Events Manager Ms Mandy Woo



(From the left) HK Phil Board member Mr Benedict Sin, Chairman Mr David Cogman, Vice-Chairman Dr Allen Fung, Board member Mr Edmond Huang



(From the left) HK Phil Board member Mr Benedict Sin, Ms Karen Chan, Mrs Harriet Tung, Chairman Mr David Cogman, Mr C.C. Tung, Vice-Chairman Dr Allen Fung



(From the left) HK Phil Chief Executive Mr Benedikt Fohr, Maestro Tan Du, Museum Director of Hong Kong Palace Museum Dr Louis Ng



HK Phil Chief Executive Mr Benedikt Fohr closed the dinner with a thank you note.

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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.