

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 6 November 2023

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra Celebrates its Golden Jubilee Let's Tap into the Community with the "Rhythm of the City"



[6 November 2023, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is celebrating its Golden Jubilee with "Rhythm of the City" – a combination of community initiatives including free busking performances, Music Journey with Star Ferry and many more events throughout the 2023/24 Season. An array of original merchandise created in collaboration with local brands and artists is also available from November 2023.

Rhythm of the City: Community Busking Performances (October 2023 to April 2024)

The HK Phil has always been closely connected with the community since its first performance in 1948 (as Sino-British Club Symphony Orchestra), which took place in St Stephen's Girls College. Today, the orchestra is reaching over 30,000 students annually through school concerts and ensemble visits, and audiences from all walks of life through community concerts and casual music encounters, such as **Rhythm of the City: Community Busking Performances**.

Rhythm of the City: Community Busking Performances take place in Hong Kong's cultural landmarks and shopping malls, fitting as a joyous way to celebrate the orchestra's 50th birthday. The HK Phil String Quartet, Trombone Quintet and Fellows of The Orchestra Academy Hong Kong cannot wait to perform for the public at various locations. For details of the performances, please refer to Appendix 1.

Rhythm of the City: Music Journey with Star Ferry (From mid-December 2023)

With venue support from Star Ferry, the HK Phil is launching the third chapter of its partnership with public transport, **Rhythm of the City: Music Journey with Star Ferry**. An affordable and convenient way to cross Victoria Harbour, the "Star" Ferry Company has been serving Hongkongers for 125 years and carrying tourists from around the world. The HK Phil also strives to make classical music accessible to the community and to promote Hong Kong through top-notch performances and touring. Starting from mid-December 2023, music played by the HK Phil with narration will be broadcasted on the ferry.

HK Phil 50th Anniversary Merchandise Series

Celebrating HK Phil's milestone and home-grown talents, the orchestra collaborates with local brands and artists to craft a total of 11 items of original merchandise. Be the first to own the anniversary souvenirs at the sales launch at the ever-popular Swire *Symphony Under the Stars* on 18 November 2023 (Sat). The merchandise will also be available at the HK Phil concerts held at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui in December 2023 and the HKTDC Design Gallery in the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, Wan Chai from December 2023 to April 2024. Patrons can also select their favourite gifts for their loved ones online from 18 November 2023 (Sat) at the HK Phil website (hkphil.org/50A) and Lion Rock Press online store (thelionrockpress.com/collections/hk-phil). Product details can be found in Appendix 2.

The family-appealing **Rhythm of the City Mismatching Socks** come in two family sets in four styles created by Pair Pair Full. The HK Phil's first bilingual Children's Book Project, ***The Stowaways Symphony: The Musical Adventures of the Zoo Orchestra Children's Picture Book***, in collaboration with Sophia Hotung and published by Humming Publishing, teaches young audiences about musical instruments and concert etiquette. The beautiful illustrations in the book are transformed into a **Tote Bag**. **SPARKLE Collection Silk Scarf & Pocket Square**, designed by SPARKLE by KAREN CHAN, comes in three styles in daring neon colours. The **HK Phil Golden Jubilee Moleskine Custom Edition Notebook** and the **HK Phil Golden Jubilee Parker Pen** are the perfect duo for capturing your HK Phil moments.

Book Talk: Join Sophia Hotung and the animals for a musical adventure

The Stowaways Symphony: The Musical Adventures of the Zoo Orchestra interactive book talk in both English and Cantonese, will be held at the Causeway Bay Eslite 9/F Forum on 12 November 2023 (Sun) at 1:30PM. Guest host Stephanie Ng, founder of Body Banter, will ask Sophia Hotung about her music journey, her relationship with the HK Phil and the creative process of the book. Young readers are welcome to share their exciting concert experiences and concertgoing etiquette. There will be a read-aloud and a book signing session.

Biographies

The "Star" Ferry Company, Limited

The Star Ferry has provided cross-harbour ferry services between Hong Kong Island and Kowloon since its establishment in 1898. The Star Ferry's ferry crossings at Victoria Harbour are acclaimed as an important part of the commuter system between Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, and essential journeys for visitors. The National Geographic Traveler named the ferry crossing as "one of 50 places of a lifetime". The ferry ride is also well known as one of the world's best value-for-money sightseeing trips.

Pair Pair Full

Pair Pair Full was born in Hong Kong in 2020, when three post-80s home-grown co-founders came together with a simple vision: promote positivity through funky and mismatched socks. Redefining the concept of matching in a world that often emphasises conformity, Pair Pair Full is a symbol of optimism, reminding us that true beauty lies in embracing our differences. Each pair is weaved to present a tale of individuality, inspiring everyone to take pride in their unique style. On 22 April 2023, Earth Day, Pair Pair Full proudly became a member of the global network, 1% for the Planet, an organisation established by Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia, and Craig Mathews, founder of Blue Ribbon Flies, committed to join forces on global sustainability movement.

Sophia Hotung

Sophia Hotung is a Eurasian writer and illustrator from Hong Kong, best known for creating The Hong Konger art collection. Growing up in Hong Kong, she was so inspired by the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra that she took up the tuba, which she played throughout high school in school and national orchestras and ensembles. Sophia doesn't play the tuba much now, but the HK Phil still holds a special place in her heart, and she looks forward to this book inspiring other young music-lovers and concert-goers. Sophia is also a disability advocate and the author and illustrator of *The Hong Konger Anthology* and *The Heist of Hooded Light*. Her work can be found at sophiahotung.com or on social media at @sophiahotung.

Humming Publishing

Humming Publishing Limited is a Hong Kong Traditional Chinese book publisher founded in 2018 that aims to create and preserve interesting and insightful content in printed and online. We think outside the “book” – by integrating cultural activities like reading forums, talks, exhibitions, online content – to make the book more than just a book. We believe we can flutter fast, stay in the midair, hum till the sound returns – just like a hummingbird.

SPARKLE BY KAREN CHAN

SPARKLE by KAREN CHAN is Hong Kong’s first understated luxury cultural and creative fashion brand specialising in East-meets-West modern Chinese qipaos and kung-fu jackets, with special emphasis on reviving the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Cheongsam through “Nostalgic HK” original patterns and avant-garde qipao designs that upturn the traditional image of Chinese fashion being conservative and old-fashioned. SPARKLE by KAREN CHAN is the first HK fashion brand to be exclusively invited to participate in Hong Kong’s most influential fashion event CENTRESTAGE five years in a row, Heritage Haw Par Fashion Show, Berlin’s PV denim show, and four international Fashion Weeks including two times in Milan, Los Angeles, New York and Shanghai!

In 2023, SPARKLE by KAREN CHAN reached a new milestone as the first fashion brand to be exclusively invited by the world class Hong Kong Museum of Art and Hong Kong Heritage Museum to collaborate with them, using priceless art masterpieces by renowned Chinese artists to create modern qipaos that are literally “walking pieces of art”. SPARKLE by KAREN CHAN has won numerous cultural artistic accolades, and is the first Chinese fashion brand to be awarded the prestigious Hong Kong Top Brand Award.

Moleskine®

Today the Moleskine® brand identifies a series of objects that accompany the creativity and imagination of our world. The very first of these objects was a small black notebook, born from a great tradition. The Moleskine notebook is the heir and successor to the legendary notebook used by artists and thinkers over the past two centuries: among them Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Ernest Hemingway and Bruce Chatwin. The notebook was Bruce Chatwin’s favourite, and it was he who called it “moleskine”. In 1997, a small Milanese publisher brought the legendary notebook back to life, and selected this name with a literary pedigree to revive an extraordinary tradition. Today, Moleskine is synonymous with culture, imagination, memory, travel, and personal identity – in both the real world and the virtual world.

STUDIOLAU

Based in Prague, Hong Kong and Berlin, STUDIOLAU is a graphic studio dedicated in the fields of arts and culture, runs by award-winning designer Dio Lau.

Lion Rock Press Online Store

The Lion Rock Press is a family business founded by Claire Yates, specialising in premium Hong Kong-inspired gifts, books, stationery and prints. Growing up in a family that had been the oldest paper merchant in Hong Kong, she possesses twin obsessions of paper and Hong Kong. It led her to create the now iconic local brand, which sells products infused with love, humour and an insider’s knowing smile! Over the last 10 years, The Lion Rock Press has grown into a flourishing premium gift emporium, allowing customers from all over the world to feel the vibrancy and uniqueness of this special city.

[Download](#) press images



String Quartet Busking Performance

(From left to right)
Ba Wenjing, violin
Rachael Mellado, violin
Damara Lomdaridze, viola
Chen Yi-Chen, cello
Photo: The Mills



The “Star” Ferry Company


Appendix 1


Rhythm of the City: Free Community Busking Performances

Date & Time	Details
18 December 2023 (Mon) 6PM	Star Ferry’s Central Pier ○ Trombone Quintet
24 December 2023 (Sun) 1PM & 2PM	Pacific Place ○ Trombone Quintet
24 December 2023 (Sun) 3:30PM & 4:40PM	Citygate Outlet ○ Trombone Quintet
28 January 2024 (Sun) 2PM, 3PM & 4PM	Cityplaza ○ String Quartet
15 April 2024 (Mon) 6PM & 6:45PM	MTR Hong Kong Station (Living Art Stage) ○ Fellows of The Orchestra Academy Hong Kong & String Quartet
Two other performances were held on 14 Oct 2023 at The Mills and Central Market	

Appendix 2

HK Phil 50th Anniversary Merchandise Series ([Download](#) merchandise photos)

	<p>Rhythm of the City Mismatching Socks In collaboration with Pair Pair Full</p> <p>Co-founded by three post-80s in 2020, local brand Pair Pair Full is a symbol of optimism, reminding us that true beauty lies in embracing our differences. Each pair of their socks is woven to present a tale of individuality, inspiring everyone to take pride in their unique style. Rhythm of the City series is created especially to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the HK Phil.</p> <p>Enchanted Moment A full house of audience relishes the power of art in the concert hall with a grand Reiger organ. Under the spotlight, the conductor leads musicians to play the enchanting music.</p> <p>Melodic Skyline Music has a mesmerising quality that can bring the entire city to life, much like a magical spell, and enrich our lives. The melodies played by the orchestra illuminate the pitch-dark sky, filling our horizon with drive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adult Crew: S: 36-39/M: 40-43/L: 44-46 (HK\$138) ○ Kids Socks: 20-30 for 5-7 years old/ 31-34 for 8-10 years old (HK\$118)
	<p>The Stowaways Symphony: The Musical Adventures of the Zoo Orchestra In collaboration with Sophia Hotung</p> <p>Sophia Hotung, renowned writer and illustrator, collaborated with the HK Phil to create the orchestra's first bilingual children's picture book (Humming Publishing). Readers can learn about the fundamentals of music, the families of orchestral instruments, and concertgoing etiquette through dynamic characters, colourful fact sheets, and a surprise plot twist.</p> <p>Children's Picture Book Disguised to avoid suspicion, six zoo animals escape their enclosures to watch the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra's concert. However, during the performance, an usher spots and removes them one by one. With only Flamingo left by the end, she wonders if she will ever get a magical concertgoing experience, or if she'll also be found out and kicked out for good...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30+ reusable stickers inside (HK\$198) <p>Tote Bag</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High quality tote bag with vibrant prints of the lovely animals and musical instruments from the picture book. Size: 35cm x 33cm (HK\$165)

	<p>SPARKLE Collection Silk Scarf & Pocket Square</p> <p>In collaboration with SPARKLE by KAREN CHAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created with the vision of Karen Chan, SPARKLE brand founder and cheongsam designer, this collection comes in three original patterns inspired by the HK Phil, depicting musical instruments in neon hues, showing that classical music can be funky too! Stunning cheongsams from this collection were showcased in a fashion show in September 2023. Blue: available in both 70cm x 70cm pure silk scarf and 45cm x 45cm pocket square (HK\$1,399 and HK\$1,099) Fuchsia: available in 70cm x 70cm pure silk scarf (HK\$1,399) Lime: available in 70cm x 70cm pure silk scarf (HK\$1,399)
	<p>HK Phil Golden Jubilee Moleskine Custom Edition Notebook</p> <p>In collaboration with Moleskine®</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associating with great artists like Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Ernest Hemingway and Bruce Chatwin, the legendary Moleskine notebook is your perfect companion to capture moments with the HK Phil. This custom edition Moleskine, designed by Hong Kong based design studio STUDIOLAU, is inspired by the calligraphic ornaments of music scores and conducting gestures. Medium 11.5cm x 18cm. Hard Cover. Ruled. (HK\$250)
	<p>HK Phil Golden Jubilee Parker Pen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jot down your joyful memories of the HK Phil with this sleek Parker rollerball pen. A perfect gift for your loved ones who enjoy music. (HK\$200)

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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.