

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Date: 28 November 2023

**Celebrate the Festive Season with the HK Phil**

Disney Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* Live in Concert (22 & 23 December)  
China Life (Overseas) and HKCEA Proudly Sponsor: New Year Celebration (30 & 31 December)  
Swire Denim Series: Hans Zimmer's Greatest Hits (5 & 6 January)

**[28 November 2023, Hong Kong]** Let's celebrate the holiday season with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)! From Christmas to New Year, the HK Phil is delighted to present an outstanding line up led by conductors Nicholas Buc, Paolo Bortolameolli and Benjamin Northey. The series of concerts will take place from late December 2023 to early January 2024 in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, ensuring every audience an unforgettable musical experience.

**Disney Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* Live In Concert (22 & 23 December)**

Step into a world of magic and adventure with a live performance of Disney Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. "This is Halloween! This is Halloween! Pumpkins scream in the dead of night." Boys and girls, beware! But wait – isn't this Christmas? The captivating story of Pumpkin King Jack Skellington's attempt to take over the holiday season by kidnapping Santa Claus will come to life on the big screen.

These wonderful concerts will be conducted by Nicholas Buc, an award-winning composer, arranger and highly sought after conductor for live film concerts. Come experience Tim Burton's timeless holiday classic, with Grammy-winning composer Danny Elfman's score performed live by the HK Phil with the film playing on the screen.

"Disney Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* Live In Concert" will be held on 22 December 2023 (Fri) at 8PM and 23 December (Sat) at 3PM and 8PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. The matinee performance belongs to the Swire Saturday Family Series. Tickets priced at HK\$480, \$380, \$280 and \$200 are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](http://hkphil.org).

**China Life (Overseas) and HKCEA Proudly Sponsor: New Year Celebration (30 & 31 December)**

Join us at our signature New Year Concerts as we bid farewell to 2023 in a splendid style and usher in 2024 with great fanfare! Chilean-Italian conductor Paolo Bortolameolli will make his HK Phil debut and brings a festive Latin American programme with a Viennese twist, including Revueltas' spine-tingling *Sensemaya* and Gershwin's *Cuban Overture*, along with some Johann Strauss favourites. HK Phil Concertmaster Jing Wang is the soloist in "Spring" and "Winter" from Piazzolla's *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*. Miguel Farias's new work *Kuntur* will also be world-premiered in the concerts.

Paolo Bortolameolli is the Music Director of the Orquesta Sinfónica Azteca (México) and Principal Guest Conductor of Filarmónica de Santiago (Chile) and Music Director of the National Youth Symphony Orchestra in Chile. Together, Bortolameolli and the HK Phil will showcase the extraordinary works by these remarkable composers.

"China Life (Overseas) and HKCEA Proudly Sponsor: New Year Celebration" will be held on 30 December (Sat) at 8PM and 31 December 2023 (Sun) at 7PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$480, \$380, \$280 and \$200 are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](http://hkphil.org).

### **Swire Denim Series: Hans Zimmer's Greatest Hits (5 & 6 January)**

In an illustrious career spanning over 40 years, German film composer Hans Zimmer has scored over 150 films, winning him two Oscars and two Grammy Awards. His music seamlessly combines electronic elements with symphonic textures to great dramatic effect, bringing epic worlds to life on the screen. Under the baton of Benjamin Northey, Chief Conductor of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and the Principal Conductor in Residence of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the HK Phil will perform Zimmer's greatest hits from *Inception*, *The Dark Knight trilogy*, *The Lion King*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Gladiator* and more.

"Swire Denim Series: Hans Zimmer's Greatest Hits" will be held on 5 & 6 January 2024 (Fri & Sat) at 8PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$480, \$380, \$280 and \$200 are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](http://hkphil.org).

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### **Artists**

#### **Disney Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas Live In Concert**

**Nicholas Buc, conductor** [\[full description\]](#)

Nicholas Buc is an award-winning composer, conductor and arranger with over 20 years of experience in the music industry. He has composed music for film, television and the concert hall, with some of his work being screened at festivals and theatres around Australia, Asia and the US. As the recipient of the prestigious Brian May Scholarship, he completed a Master's degree in Scoring for Film and Multimedia at New York University, receiving the Elmer Bernstein Award for Film Scoring.

#### **China Life (Overseas) and HKCEA Proudly Sponsor: New Year Celebration**

**Paolo Bortolameolli, conductor** [\[full description\]](#)

Paolo Bortolameolli is Music Director of the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional Juvenil (Chile), Sinfónica Azteca (México), Principal Guest Conductor of Filarmónica de Santiago (Opera Nacional de Chile) and Associate Conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In addition to these regular conducting relationships, he has led ensembles across the Western Hemisphere including engagements with the Orquesta Sinfónica Simón Bolívar (Caracas), Orquesta Filarmónica de Buenos Aires, Kansas City, Houston, and San Francisco symphonies and the LA Philharmonic. In Europe, he is a regular and return guest to the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Haydn (Bolzano), Helsinki Philharmonic and the Orchestra della Toscana (Florence).

**Jing Wang, violin** [\[full description\]](#)

Critically acclaimed Canadian violinist Jing Wang is one of the most versatile and dynamic violinists of his generation. Since his solo recital debut in Marseilles, France at the age of six, Wang has garnered prizes in top international competitions, including the first prize at the 2007 Irving M. Klein International Strings Competition. In 2003, Jing was awarded the "Young Soloist of the Year" by Les Radios Francophones Publiques, a broadcast network of four countries including France, Canada, Switzerland, and Belgium. As a part of the award, Jing's first CD album including works by Beethoven, Ravel and Gershwin was released in Europe.

#### **Swire Denim Series: Hans Zimmer's Greatest Hits**

**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.

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## DISNEY TIM BURTON'S THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS LIVE IN CONCERT

23 & 24 | 12 | 2023

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$480 \$380 \$280 \$200

Tickets now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

## SWIRE SATURDAY FAMILY SERIES: DISNEY TIM BURTON'S THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS LIVE IN CONCERT

24 | 12 | 2023

SAT 3PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$480 \$380 \$280 \$200

Tickets now available at URBTIX

For ages 3 and above

### Artists

[Nicholas Buc](#)

conductor

### Programme

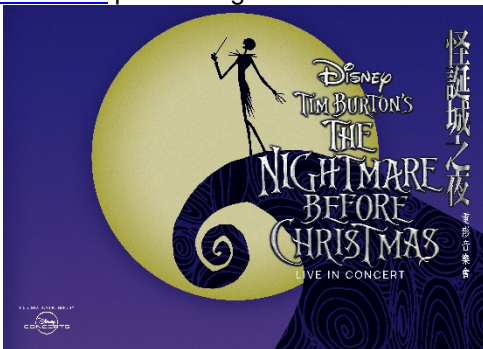
Danny ELFMAN

*The Nightmare Before Christmas* (film screening with live music)

Parental guidance is suggested for this film

Film screening (English dialogue with Chinese subtitles) with live orchestral accompaniment

[Download](#) press images



Nicholas Buc



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo: Keith Hiro/HK Phil

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## CHINA LIFE (OVERSEAS) AND HKCEA PROUDLY SPONSOR: NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

30 & 31 | 12 | 2023

SAT 8PM

SUN 7PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$480 \$380 \$280 \$200

Tickets now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Paolo Bortolameolli](#)

conductor

[Jing Wang](#)

violin

### Programme

**REVUELTAS**

Sensemaya

**GERSHWIN**

*Cuban Overture*

**Roberto SIERRA**

Sinfonia no. 3, *La Salsa*: I. Tumbao

**Arturo MÁRQUEZ**

Danzón no. 2

**PIAZZOLLA**

*The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*: Invierno Porteño (Winter),

Primavera Porteña (Spring)

**J STRAUSS II**

*Tritsch-Tratsch* Polka

**J STRAUSS II**

*Die Fledermaus* Overture

**Miguel FARIAS**

*Kuntur* (World Premiere)

**RAVEL**

*La valse*

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**Paolo Bortolameolli**

Photo: Jorge Brantmayer



**Jing Wang**

Photo: Keith Hiro/HK Phil



**Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**

Photo: Keith Hiro/HK Phil

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## SWIRE DENIM SERIES: HANS ZIMMER'S GREATEST HITS

5 & 6 | 1 | 2024

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$480 \$380 \$280 \$200

Tickets now available at URB TIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Benjamin Northey](#) conductor

### Programme

Hans ZIMMER

Hans ZIMMER

Hans ZIMMER/ Klaus BADEL T

Hans ZIMMER

Hans ZIMMER

Hans ZIMMER

Hans ZIMMER

Hans ZIMMER/John POWELL

Hans ZIMMER

Hans ZIMMER/ James Newton HOWARD

Hans ZIMMER

Hans ZIMMER/ Lisa GERRARD

*Sherlock Holmes: Discombobulate*

*Driving Miss Daisy: Theme*

*Pirates of the Caribbean Suite*

*The Thin Red Line: Journey to the Line*

*The Holiday: Maestro*

*Inception Suite*

*The Lion King Orchestra Suite*

*Kung Fu Panda: Oogway Ascends*

*The Da Vinci Code: Chevaliers de Sangreal*

*Batman Trilogy: The Dark Knight Suite*

*Interstellar Suite*

*Gladiator Suite*

[Download](#) press images



Benjamin Northey  
Photo: Laura Manariti



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 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.