

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Date: 11 January 2024

## The HK Phil Presents Jazz and Classical with Acclaimed Artists in January and February 2024

[11 January 2024, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is excited to announce its collaboration with exceptional conductors and soloists for two diverse programmes scheduled for late January and early February. Led by the versatile conductor Gerard Salonga and emerging talent Kahchun Wong, the performances will feature Ted Lo, Janice Vidal, Eugene Pao, and Julian Rachlin, who will grace the stage alongside the HK Phil. Tickets are available at URBTIX.

### **Swire Denim Series: Soulful Jazz Evening with Ted Lo (26 & 27 January 2024)**



The internationally renowned Hong Kong jazz legend Ted Lo has dedicated himself to promoting the art of jazz together with the next generation of local musicians. He joins forces with phenomenal songstress Janice Vidal and pre-eminent guitarist Eugene Pao, all accentuated by the orchestral vigour of the HK Phil under the baton of Gerard Salonga. Expect beloved 1970s pop songs with jazzed-up arrangements, soulful songs, and Lo's original compositions in response to our times, performed across two evenings. Lo has also arranged his ensemble pieces into full symphonic scores. The programme seamlessly fuses influences from jazz, pop, contemporary fusion, and a Beethoven Sonata.

“Swire Denim Series: Soulful Jazz Evening with Ted Lo” will be held on 26 & 27 January 2024 (Fri & Sat) at 8PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$580, \$460, \$340, \$220 and \$50 are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](http://hkphil.org).

### **Kahchun Wong & Julian Rachlin (2 February 2024)**



Brahms's one-and-only Violin Concerto has long been recognised as one of the pinnacle concertos for the instrument. This piece is valued above all for its ideal balance of musical substance, symphonic thinking and imaginative writing for the soloist. Acclaimed Lithuanian violinist Julian Rachlin will perform this masterpiece, celebrated for its understated virtuosity and Hungarian flavour. Rising Singaporean conductor Kahchun Wong, winner of the 2016 Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition, will make his HK Phil debut in this concert. Wong will lead the orchestra in Bartók's popular *Concerto for Orchestra*. The composer revives aspects of the Baroque concerto grosso concept, where smaller groupings of instruments are juxtaposed with the texture of the larger ensemble, showcasing every section of a modern symphony orchestra throughout the five movements.

"Kahchun Wong & Julian Rachlin" will be held on 2 February 2024 (Fri) at 8PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$680, \$540, \$400, \$260 and \$50 are available at [URBTIX](https://www.urbtix.com). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](https://www.hkphil.org).

To provide audiences with a deep dive into specific orchestral works, "Swire Music for Everyone Series: Bartók Concerto for Orchestra" will be held on 2 February 2024 (Fri) at 10AM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Admission is free, and tickets are available on a first come, first-served basis. Online registration will start at 10AM on 22 January 2024 (Mon) on [POPTICKET](https://www.popticket.com)'s website.

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## Artists

### **Gerard Salonga, conductor** [\[full description\]](#)

Gerard Salonga is currently Resident Conductor of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra in Kuala Lumpur, a position he has held since January 2019. Selected over 170 international applicants and appointed by Maestro Jaap van Zweden, he served as Assistant Conductor of the HK Phil for two seasons from 2016 to 2018. He also served as Music Director of the ABS-CBN Philharmonic Orchestra in Manila from 2012 to 2020. In January 2021, Salonga began his term as Music Director of the Orchestra of the Filipino Youth.

### **Ted Lo, piano and arranger** [\[full description\]](#)

In 1976, Hong Kong-born Jazz pianist Ted Lo was the first Chinese graduate of Berklee College of Music in the US. Beginning his career as a freelance jazz pianist during the 1970s, he made his recording debut on trombonist Raul de Souza's 1974 album *Colors*. In 1977, Lo toured with rock legend Al Kooper. In 1979, he moved to New York City, where over the next decade he collaborated with the likes of Astrud Gilberto, Ron Carter, Earl Klugh, etc. Returning to Hong Kong in 1996, Ted has worked with an impressive list of Hong Kong pop icons. He has devoted much time to raising awareness about jazz in Hong Kong and Asia, and inspiring the next generation of musicians.

### **Janice Vidal, vocalist** [\[full description\]](#)

Born in 1982, Janice Vidal is a Hong Kong singer of Filipino and Korean heritage. Discovered by Mark Lui while working as a backing vocalist for Leon Lai, she made her solo debut in 2004 under AMusic and swept the board with rookie awards at multiple ceremonies. Known for her virtuosity, she quickly became one of Hong Kong's most rapidly rising female singers. She is also one of the few Hong Kong female singers who successfully broke into the Southeast Asian market, particularly popular in Malaysia where she even has a dedicated fan club. Her albums consistently top the charts across Southeast Asia.

### **Eugene Pao, guitar** [\[full description\]](#)

Eugene Pao is Hong Kong's most publicly recognised jazz musician and his name is synonymous with jazz in our city. Such reputation cannot be more deserving as Pao has been at the vanguard of promoting jazz in the territory through his performances and recordings over the last thirty years or so. In the mid 1980s, Pao returned from studies in the US and began playing in Hong Kong. Recognition came early from leading international jazz musicians. Some of his early recordings featured such legends as bassist Eddie Gomez, blues great Jimmy Witherspoon and saxophonist Michael Brecker.

### **Kahchun Wong, conductor** [\[full description\]](#)

Internationally acclaimed for his electrifying stage presence and his thoughtful exploration of Eastern and Western artistic legacies, Singapore-born Kahchun Wong is Chief Conductor of Japan Philharmonic Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor of Dresdner Philharmonie. He will succeed Sir Mark Elder as the newly appointed Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Hallé from the 2024/25 Season. In his final appearance as Chief Conductor of Nürnberger Symphoniker in 2022, Wong led the successful world premiere of his orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* to an audience of 75,000 at the annual Klassik Open Air in Luitpoldhain. Since winning the Mahler Competition in 2016, Wong has guest conducted many distinguished orchestras.

### **Julian Rachlin, violin** [\[full description\]](#)

Julian Rachlin is Music Director of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Chief Conductor of the Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra, and Principal Guest Conductor of the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra. With a career spanning more than thirty years, Rachlin has taken his multifaceted interests across the globe as conductor, soloist, chamber musician, teacher, and artistic director. His critically acclaimed recordings have been released by Deutsche Grammophon, Sony Classical and Warner Classics.

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## SWIRE DENIM SERIES: SOULFUL JAZZ EVENING WITH TED LO

26 & 27 | 1 | 2024

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$580, \$460, \$340, \$220, \$50

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Gerard Salonga](#)

[Ted Lo](#)

[Janice Vidal](#)

[Eugene Pao](#)

conductor

piano and arranger

vocalist

guitar

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**Gerard Salonga**  
Photo: Malaysian  
Philharmonic Orchestra



**Ted Lo**  
Photo: Andrew Chester Ong



**Janice Vidal**



**Eugene Pao**  
Photo: Andrew Chester Ong



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

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## KAHCHUN WONG & JULIAN RACHLIN

2 | 2 | 2024

FRI 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$680, \$540, \$400, \$260 and \$50

Tickets now available at URB TIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Kahchun Wong](#)

conductor

[Julian Rachlin](#)

violin

### Programme

**BRAHMS**

Violin Concerto

**BARTÓK**

*Concerto for Orchestra*

[Download](#) press images



**Kahchun Wong**  
Photo: Angie Kremer



**Julian Rachlin**  
Photo: Evgeny Evtikhov



**Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**  
Photo: Ka Lam/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.