

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 9 February 2024

HK Phil Fundraising Concert 2024 Play with the Phil was a Shining Success

[9 February 2024, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) celebrated its 50th anniversary with a remarkable Fundraising Concert at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall on 4 February 2024 (Sunday). Under the leadership of the HK Phil's Resident Conductor Lio Kuokman, the fundraising concert offered unique opportunities for music-loving luminaries as young as six years old to share the stage with the esteemed members of the HK Phil.

The concert was a resounding success, raising over HK\$2,000,000 to support the HK Phil's long-term development, including our music education and outreach initiatives, bringing valuable experience and knowledge of music to children across the city.

The concert was a celebration of talent and community spirit. The stellar performers and composers include (in alphabetical order of surname): Mr Richard Bamping, Ms Charis Chan, Ms Krista Chan, Ms Jamie Cheng, Mr Zachary Cheng Kin-chung, Chinese International School Symphony, Mr Chiu Sung-hong, Ms Lora Chow Hiu-ching, Mr Lewis Chung, Ms Bora Ding, Ms Ding Yijie, Mrs Helen Fong, Ms Isabelle Fuan, Grazioso Music Academy, Hong Kong Harp Chamber Music, Hong Kong International School Onsom Orchestra, Mr Tyler Kwok, Ms Ella Lam, Ms Ruda Lee, Mr Alston Daniel Leung, Malvern College Hong Kong, Mr Damon Meng, Ms China Pascual, Mr Marcel Schumacher, Ms Sharon Tse, Ms Charmaine Wong Cheuk-ying, Young Virtuosi HK, and Fe Yuen.

Among the highlights of the afternoon were:

- A diverse programme featuring solo concerto performances by musicians using different instruments, ranging from piano and string instruments to marimba and harp. Young talents from institutions such as the Hong Kong Harp Chamber Music, Grazioso Music Academy, and Young Virtuosi HK showcased their skills alongside seasoned professionals.
- Participation of an array of local school students, including Kowloon Tong School, St Paul's Co-educational College, and Diocesan Girls' School, as well as international schools, emphasising the rich tapestry of musical prowess and the cultural diversity of the event.
- Inclusion of orchestral groups from the Chinese International School, the Hong Kong International School, and Malvern College Hong Kong, further underscoring the collaborative and inclusive spirit of the afternoon.
- A poignant moment, sponsored by the Swire Group Charitable Trust, when Ding Yijie, a visually impaired artist from the Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong, delivered a breathtaking solo violin recital, showcasing the power of music to transcend barriers.

- The enchanting performances of local talents such as Lora Chow, who graced the stage with her original composition, demonstrating her virtuosity as a soprano, pianist, and harpist.
- The notable debut of Lewis Chung's original score inspired by cubism art, which ingeniously merged elements of classical music with avant-garde jazz, captivating the audience with its dynamic energy and creativity.

The HK Phil would like to give its heartfelt thanks to the Fundraising Concert Organising Committee 2024:

Chair of Organising Committee
Ms Elizabeth Lo

Honorary Advisor
Ms Angela Yau

Members
Mr Edmond Cheuk
Ms Lora Chow
Mrs Jacqueline Pun Leung
Ms Ada Pong

Artist

Lio Kuokman, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

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.



Programme

Hong Kong International School Onsom Orchestra	TCHAIKOVSKY: <i>Swan Lake</i> , Act II Scene 10 ANDERSON: <i>Blue Tango</i> (arr. Chris M. BERNOTAS)
Zachary Cheng & Richard Bamping	VIVALDI: Concerto for 2 Cellos in G minor, RV 531: movement I
Charis Chan	NEY ROSAURO: Marimba Concerto no. 1: IV. Despedida (Farewell)
Lora Chow	LORA CHOW: <i>Awakening</i>
Sharon Tse	MOZART: Piano Concerto no. 21 in C, K. 467: II. Andante
Bora Ding	MOZART: Piano Concerto no. 23 in A, K. 488: II. Adagio
Helen Fong	BEETHOVEN: Piano Concerto no. 5 in E flat, op. 73, <i>Emperor</i> . III. Rondo: Allegro
Isabelle Fuan & Ella Lam Yan- Laam	SCHUBERT: <i>Marche militaire</i> no. 1 in D, D. 733 (orch. Gerard SALONGA)
Malvern College Hong Kong	SHOSTAKOVICH: Piano Concerto no. 2 in F, op. 102: II. Andante
Damon Meng & Tyler Kwok	MOZART: Concerto for 2 Pianos in E flat, K. 365: II. Andante
Hong Kong Harp Chamber Music	HANDEL: Harp Concerto in B flat, HWV 294: III. Allegro moderato
Marcel Schumacher & China Pascual	MACIEJ MAŁECKI: <i>Concertino in an Ancient Style</i> : III. Presto con grazia
Jamie Cheng	DVOŘAK: Romance in F minor, op. 11
Ding Yijie	DE SARASATE: <i>Zigeunerweisen</i> , op. 20
Alston Daniel Leung	MENDELSSOHN: Violin Concerto in E minor, op. 64: III. Allegro molto vivace
Chiu Sung-hong	BRUCH: Violin Concerto no. 1 in G minor, op. 26: I. Prelude: Allegro moderato
Ruda Lee & Krista Chan	BRAHMS: Hungarian Dance no. 5 in G minor (orch. PARLOW) & Joachim solo violin part
Charmaine Wong	PAGANINI: Violin Concerto no. 2, op. 7, <i>La Campanella</i> : III. Rondo (arr. Daniel LING for viola solo)
Grazioso Music Academy	VIVALDI: Concerto op. 3, no. 10 in B minor for 4 violins, cello and strings, RV 580: I. Allegro
Fe Yuen	POPPER: Polonaise de Concert, op. 14

(orch. José Ramón HERNÁNDEZ BELLIDO)

Young Virtuosi HK

VIVALDI: Violin Concerto in A minor, RV 356: I. Allegro

Lewis Chung

LEWIS CHUNG: *Voyage to a Staircase from Afar*

Chinese International School
Symphony

MUSSORGSKY: *Pictures at an Exhibition* (orch. RAVEL):
Promenade I & Baba Yaga

[Download](#) press images



China Pascual and Marcel Schumacher
Photo: Ka Lam /HK Phil



Grazioso Music Academy
Photo: Ka Lam /HK Phil



Young Virtuosi HK
Photo: Ka Lam /HK Phil



Chinese International School
Photo: Ka Lam /HK Phil



Hong Kong International School Onsom
Orchestra

Photo: Eric /HK Phil



Malvern College Hong Kong

Photo: Ka Lam /HK Phil



Ding Yijie
Photo: Ka Lam /HK Phil



Lora Chow
Photo: Ka Lam /HK Phil



Lewis Chung
Photo: Ka Lam /HK Phil



Lio Kuokman
Photo: Ka Lam /HK Phil



Hong Kong Harp Chamber Music
Photo: Ka Lam /HK Phil



Ruda Lee and Krista Chan
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 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 codirected 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.