

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Date: 16 February 2024

## The HK Phil Presents an Easter Extravaganza

**[16 February 2024, Hong Kong]** The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is excited to host a diverse array of programmes for the Easter celebration. On 23 & 24 March, in collaboration with HKU Muse, the orchestra presents Gloria, one of Poulenc's most celebrated works for solo soprano, orchestra, and chorus. The following weekend (29 & 30 March), Estonian Grammy Award-winning conductor Paavo Järvi returns with violinist Alena Baeva. On 5 & 6 April, the HK Phil will delight audiences with a film-in-concert featuring BBC's *Seven Worlds One Planet*, with live music performed by the orchestra under the baton of Joshua Tan. Tickets are available at URBTIX.

### **HK Phil x HKU Muse: Poulenc Gloria (23 & 24 March 2024)**

The HK Phil Chorus partners with the HKU Chamber Singers to showcase four contrasting choral works at HKU's Grand Hall. Led by French conductor Chloé Dufresne, the orchestra and combined chorus will open the concert with Haydn's second setting of Te Deum, followed by the world premiere of Anthony Au's *Hark! The Midnight Bell Echoes*. Baritone Caleb Woo takes the centre stage as soloist in Vaughan Williams' pious *Five Mystical Songs*, while Dani Zhang Jingdan delivers the ethereal soprano solos in Poulenc's idiosyncratic setting of Gloria.

"HK Phil x HKU Muse: Poulenc Gloria" will be held on 23 March (Sat) at 8PM and 24 March 2024 (Sun) at 3PM in the HKU Grand Hall. Tickets priced at HK \$250 are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](http://hkphil.org).

### **Swire Maestro Series: Paavo Järvi & Alena Baeva (29 & 30 March 2024)**

The HK Phil welcomes the return of two artists who gave exhilarating performances in the last season. Paavo Järvi returns with Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony – the composer's most frequently performed work and a testament to an era of struggle and oppression. Violinist Alena Baeva will also grace the stage once again, bringing us Stravinsky's meticulously structured Violin Concerto, widely considered his best orchestral work. Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio espagnol* is a perfect opener for the concert, echoing the dance-like qualities of Stravinsky's neo-classical concerto.

"Swire Maestro Series: Paavo Järvi & Alena Baeva" will be held on 29 & 30 March 2024 (Fri & Sat) at 8PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$680, \$540, \$400, \$260 and \$50 are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](http://hkphil.org).

### **BBC Seven Worlds One Planet Live In Concert (5 & 6 April 2024)**

In this film-in-concert, breathtaking footage from BBC's *Seven Worlds One Planet*, narrated by HK Phil trombone player Kevin Thompson, is accompanied by the HK Phil performing the music of Hans Zimmer and Jacob Shea, conducted by Joshua Tan. Join us on this spectacular journey to all seven continents – from scorching Africa to frozen Antarctica; from North America via Australia to wildlife in Europe; from the colourful paradises of South America to the natural beauty closer to home in Asia.

"BBC Seven Worlds One Planet Live In Concert" will be held on 5 April (Fri) at 8PM and 6 April 2024 (Sat) at 3PM & 8PM in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. Tickets priced at HK\$520, \$420, \$320 and \$220 are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [hkphil.org](http://hkphil.org).

\*\*\*

## Artists

### **Chloé Dufresne, conductor** [\[full description\]](#)

Chloé Dufresne has already made her mark as a conductor with her clear technique, calm authority and wide palette, winning prestigious prizes and engagements only three years after graduating from the Sibelius Academy. In 2021 she won both audience and orchestra prizes at the Besançon Conducting Competition, as well as being finalist at the Malko Competition. She was a Conducting Fellow at the 2022 Lucerne Festival and a Dudamel Fellow with the Los Angeles Philharmonic for the 2022/23 Season, and Gustavo Dudamel subsequently invited her to the Opéra de Paris Académie for the 2023/24 Season. From 2023/24 she also serves as an Artistic Director of Orchestre Ostinato, a Paris-based orchestra for musicians at the start of their careers.

### **Dani Zhang Jingdan, soprano** [\[full description\]](#)

Soprano Dani Zhang Jingdan received her master's degree at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts under the tutelage of soprano Nancy Yuen. She has attended masterclasses with world-renowned singers, such as Diana Damrau, Sumi Jo, Barbara Bonney, Nelly Miricioiu, Shen Yang, Warren Mok and Darryl Edwards. Zhang is one of the winners of the *RTHK Young Music Makers* 2019, and has recorded a series of TV productions and radio broadcasts for RTHK. In 2022, she made her HK Phil debut singing the soprano solo under the baton of Yu Long in the Fauré Requiem, a programme in collaboration with HKU MUSE. Recently, she debuted at the Opera Hong Kong as Norina in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, and appeared as Musetta in Puccini's *La bohème*.

### **Caleb Woo, baritone** [\[full description\]](#)

Lyric baritone Caleb Woo currently appears in productions of Chan Hing-yan's *Kungfood*, *Da Tong* and *The Heart of Coral*; Austin Yip's *Por Por*; Daniel Lo Ting-cheung's *Women like Us*; and Du Yun's *Angel's Bone*. He has also been featured in productions of *L'impresario in Angustie* by Hong Kong Grand Opera, *La bohème* by Pop Production, *La Traviata* by Musica Viva, among others. Besides opera productions, Woo actively performs sacred works. He has appeared in Bachfest Malaysia and Thüringer Bachwochen, performing Bach's Passions and Cantatas.

### **Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus** [\[full description\]](#)

Established in 1980, the HK Phil Chorus has collaborated with the HK Phil to perform a range of different works over the years. In 2013, the Chorus undertook a new recruitment drive, and over 450 singers were attracted to attend the auditions. The first performance by the newly reformed Chorus was Handel's *Messiah*. Since then, the Chorus has performed with the HK Phil in major works by composers including Britten, Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Haydn and Mahler under renowned conductors Lorin Maazel, Jaap van Zweden and Nicholas McGegan. The Chorus' Fellowship programme was inaugurated during the 2020/21 Season, setting the stage for aspiring professional singers to join this distinguished ensemble.

### **HKU Chamber Singers** [\[full description\]](#)

The HKU Chamber Singers, conducted by Caleb Woo, performs high quality repertoire from the Renaissance to the modern era and from sacred music to jazz. A wide range of topics is covered, including choral techniques, ensembleship, performance practice, and score analysis. Under the hybrid teaching modes during the pandemic, the Chamber Singers started to release online music performances in the form of online concert, music video production as well as virtual choir presentation.

\*\*\*

### **Paavo Järvi, conductor** [\[full description\]](#)

Estonian Grammy Award-winning conductor Paavo Järvi is widely recognised as one of today's most eminent conductors, enjoying close partnerships with the finest orchestras around the world. He serves as Chief Conductor of the Tonhalle Orchester-Zürich, as the long-standing Artistic Director of The Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen since 2004, and as both the founder and Artistic Director of the Estonian Festival Orchestra. Following a tour to the BBC Proms, Beethovenfest Bonn, Enescu and Prague Dvořák festivals, Järvi opens his fifth season with the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich and a continuation of his Bruckner cycle, including three performances of Symphony no. 9 at the Grosse Tonhalle and album release of Symphony no. 8 on Alpha Classics.

**Alena Baeva, violin** [\[full description\]](#)

Described as “a magnetic presence” and “a constantly fascinating sound technician” (*New York Classical Review*), violinist Alena Baeva is considered one of the most exciting, versatile, and alluring soloists active on the world stage today. Baeva’s career as an international soloist of the highest renown has grown at an extraordinary pace over recent seasons. European highlights include appearances with Die Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Göteborgs Symfoniker, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National d’Île de France, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, and in recital at the Wigmore Hall. In Asia, recent and upcoming performances include those with the HK Phil, NHK Symphony Orchestra Tokyo, and the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, amongst others.

\*\*\*

**Joshua Tan, conductor** [\[full description\]](#)

Second Prize winner of the 2008 Dimitri Mitropoulos International Competition, Singaporean conductor Joshua Tan’s rise to prominence on the international scene has been marked by successful debuts in Carnegie Hall, Philharmonie Berlin, Mariinsky Hall and Bunkamura. A graduate of The Juilliard School and the Eastman School of Music, he is an awardee of numerous scholarships and awards, such as the Young Artist Award, Singapore (2011), Bruno Walter Memorial Foundation Award, the NAC-Shell Scholarship, and the SSO/MOE Scholarship. Tan is presently Principal Conductor of the Singapore National Youth Orchestra and Director of the Asia Virtuosi.

\*\*\*

## HK PHIL X HKU MUSE: POULENC GLORIA

23 | 3 | 2024

SAT 8PM

24 | 3 | 2024

SUN 3PM

HKU Grand Hall

HK\$250

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Chloé Dufresne](#)

conductor

[Dani Zhang Jingdan](#)

soprano

[Caleb Woo](#)

baritone

[Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus](#)

[HKU Chamber Singers](#)

### Programme

HAYDN

Te Deum, Hob. XXIIIc:2

Anthony AU Ho-hei

*Hark! The Midnight Bell Echoes* (World Premiere)

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

*Five Mystical Songs*

POULENC

Gloria

[Download](#) press images



Chloé Dufresne

Photo: Capucine de Chocqueuse



Dani Zhang Jingdan



Caleb Woo



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo: Ka Lam/HK Phil



HKU Chamber Singers

\*\*\*

## SWIRE MAESTRO SERIES: PAAVO JÄRVI & ALENA BAEVA

29 & 30 | 3 | 2024

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

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

Tickets now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Paavo Järvi](#)

conductor

[Alena Baeva](#)

violin

### Programme

**RIMSKY-KORSAKOV**

*Capriccio espagnol*

**STRAVINSKY**

Violin Concerto

**SHOSTAKOVICH**

Symphony no. 5

[Download](#) press images



**Paavo Järvi**

Photo: Kaupo Kikkas



**Alena Baeva**

Photo: Andrej Grilc



**Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**

Photo: Ka Lam/HK Phil

\*\*\*

## BBC SEVEN WORLDS ONE PLANET LIVE IN CONCERT

5 & 6 | 4 | 2024

FRI 8PM

SAT 3PM & 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$520 \$420 \$320 \$220

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

### Artists

[Joshua Tan](#)

conductor

[Kevin Thompson](#)

narrator

### Programme

*Seven Worlds One Planet* (film screening with live orchestra performance) (Hong Kong Premiere)

[Download](#) press images



Joshua Tan  
Photo: Alan Lim



Kevin Thompson  
Photo: Ka Lam/HK Phil



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra  
Photo: Ka Lam/HK Phil

--- END ---

---

For further press information please contact:

**Dennis Wu, Director of Marketing**

Tel: +852 2721 9035 Email: [dennis.wu@hkphil.org](mailto:dennis.wu@hkphil.org)

**Emily Hui, Media Relations & Communications Manager**

Tel: +852 2721 1585 Email: [emily.hui@hkphil.org](mailto:emily.hui@hkphil.org)

## 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.