

PRESS RELEASE

1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 10 October 2024

Double the Magic of Music: HK Phil's Annual Extravaganza Swire Symphony Under The Stars Returns with Two Performances in November

Ticket Ballot Starts from 24 October



[10 October 2024, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is excited to announce the return of its beloved free annual outdoor mega-concert, Swire *Symphony Under The Stars* on 16 and 17 November 2024 (Sat & Sun) at Central Harbourfront. In view of the overwhelming enthusiasm from music fans, a second performance has been added this year to share the magic of music with an even larger audience. Tickets will be available to the public for free through an online ballot system from 24 October 2024 (Thu).

Join the HK Phil for an enchanting evening under the stars set against the stunning skyline of Central Harbourfront. Under the baton of internationally renowned conductor Elim Chan, who recently delighted audiences at the BBC Proms 2024, the orchestra will take audiences to a world of fairytales and classical masterpieces. Highlights include virtuoso pianist Chiyan Wong performing Tsfasman's Jazz Suite, and HK Phil Principal Horn Lin Jiang in Glière's Horn Concerto. They will be joined by presenter Vincent Tang. Music fans can also enjoy the Hong Kong Female Pop Singers Medley, specially arranged by Harris Ho and Pong Law, the magic of *Beauty and the Beast*, be swept away by Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, and cap off the night with spectacular fireworks set to the exhilarating *1812 Overture*.

Online registration for the ticket ballot will be available at <u>suts.hkphil.org/reg</u> from 24 October (Thu) at 12NN to 28 October 2024 (Mon) at 7PM. All registrants have an equal chance to win tickets. The ballot result will be published on the same website on 31 October (Thu). Each ballot winner will receive an email notification.

To share the joy of this wonderful extravaganza with inbound travellers, the HK Phil is pleased to collaborate with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to offer a portion of tickets to the visitors from the Mainland and overseas. Interested visitors can access the online platform designated by HK Phil starting from 24 October to reserve free tickets, or visit the HKTB visitor centres starting from 15 November at Hong Kong International Airport, Hong Kong West Kowloon Station, or Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Concourse. Tickets for visitors are available on a first-come, first-served basis. More details will be available later.

The first performance on 16 November 2024 (Sat) will be hybrid, with the live concert simultaneously streamed on the <u>HK Phil website</u>, <u>Facebook page</u> and <u>YouTube</u> channel, as well as the <u>SwireThrive Facebook page</u>. It will also be broadcast live on RTHK TV 32 and <u>RTHK website</u>.



This free outdoor extravaganza is made possible through the generous support of the Swire Group. As the principal patron of the HK Phil since 2006, Swire is deeply committed to its long-term vision of promoting artistic excellence and fostering cultural appreciation. Together with the HK Phil, Swire aims to bring the world of classical music to the widest possible audience.

Bring your friends and family for an unforgettable evening of music presented by the HK Phil!

Online Registration for Ticket Ballot (24 October 12NN - 28 October 7PM)

Members of the public can register for the ticket ballot and apply for up to four tickets of either performance on the Swire Symphony Under The Stars webpage <u>suts.hkphil.org/reg</u> from 24 October (Thu) at 12NN to 28 Oct 2024 (Mon) at 7PM. The registrants must provide their name, valid email address and mobile number during registration.

Each person is allowed to register for only one ballot. If duplicate registrations are found, the system will only process the latest registration entry. All registrations submitted during the online registration period have an equal chance of being selected. Successful registrants will receive a confirmation email with a registration reference number.

Ballot Result Announcement (31 October)

The ballot result listed with the registration reference number will be announced at <a href="style="style-type: style-type: s

ABOUT SWIRE SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS

Date: 16 November 2024 (Sat), 7:30PM and 17 November 2024 (Sun), 6:30PM

(with an intermission)

Gates open for admission 90 minutes before concerts start

(i.e. 16 November 6PM & 17 November 5PM)

Venue: Central Harbourfront

Admission: Free

Ballot registration from 24 October (Thu), 12NN to 28 October 2024 (Mon), 7PM

Seating

Arrangement: Free seating

Reminder: Bring your own mat, food and drinks to enjoy the starry evening

Due to security reasons no glassware is allowed in the venue, including bottles, containers and

glasses.

Live Streaming Platforms (16 November):

- HK Phil's website, Facebook page, YouTube channel
- SwireThrive Facebook page

Principal Patron: Swire

Supporting Organisation: Hong Kong Tourism Board

Media Partner: RTHK

TV Live Broadcast (16 November): RTHK TV32

Official Video Technology Partner: Mobile Vision.ai



Programme:

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV DUKAS TSFASMAN Alan MENKEN Arr. Harris HO & Pong LAW ROTA PROKOFIEV GLIÈRE TCHAIKOVSKY TCHAIKOVSKY The Snow Maiden: Dance of the Tumblers The Sorcerer's Apprentice
Jazz Suite for Piano and Orchestra
Beauty and the Beast Suite
Hong Kong Female Pop Singers Medley
Romeo and Juliet Theme
Romeo & Juliet Excerpts
Horn Concerto: movement III
Swan Lake Excerpts

Trade Promotion Competition Licence No.: 59241

1812 Overture: Finale

Artists

Elim Chan, conductor [full description]

One of the most sought-after artists of her generation, Elim Chan performs an unusually wide-ranging repertory of symphonic works extending from the Classical period to the present day. *The Sunday Times* describes Elim Chan as "a rare example of a young conductor at once brilliant and not in the least showing off." In January 2022, the *Boston Classical Review* spoke of a "marvel of control and understanding" following Elim Chan's debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Elim Chan was Principal Conductor of the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra from 2019 to 2024 and Principal Guest Conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra from 2018 to 2023.

Chiyan Wong, piano [full description]

Born in Hong Kong, pianist Chiyan Wong's audacity and vision have captivated listeners, in a repertoire ranging from the early Baroque to the 21st century. Recent highlights from past seasons include his Paris debut at the Théâtre des Champs-Elysées, and the Hungarian premiere of Thomas Adès' Piano Concerto at the Liszt Academy in Budapest. His recital for Premiere Performances Hong Kong, given in the spring of 2021, has been the subject of a feature-length concert film. Encore, which was shown in his native city.

Lin Jiang, horn [full description]

Principal Horn of the HK Phil, Lin Jiang is considered an extraordinarily gifted horn player of his generation. Born in Shanghai in 1986, he moved with his family to Australia at the age of five and began playing the horn at the age of ten. He continued his studies at Scotch College Melbourne, the Victorian College of the Arts and graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Music degree with honours. Being one of Australia's most sought after horn soloists, he has performed solos with the Melbourne and Sydney Symphony orchestras, the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra and the Australian Youth Orchestra.

Download press images



Elim Chan Photo: Simon Pauly



Chiyan Wong



Lin Jiang
Photo: Keith Hiro/ HK



Swire Symphony Under The Stars 2023 at the Central Harbourfront Photo: Eric Hong/ HK Phil



--- END ---

For further press information please contact:

Dennis Wu, Director of Marketing

Tel: +852 2721 9035 Email: dennis.wu@hkphil.org

Emily Hui, Media Relations & Communications Manager

Tel: +852 2721 1585 Email: emily.hui@hkphil.org



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director Designate: Tarmo Peltokoski Principal Guest Conductor: Long Yu Resident Conductor: Lio Kuokman, JP

Artistic Partner: Daniele Gatti

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is regarded as one of the leading orchestras in Asia. 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.

Tarmo Peltokoski will become the HK Phil's Music Director beginning in the 2026/27 season, after serving as Music Director Designate in 2025/26. Currently, Long Yu serves as Principal Guest Conductor, Lio Kuokman is Resident Conductor, and Daniele Gatti is Artistic Partner.

The HK Phil has flourished in the last two decades under Jaap van Zweden (Music Director, 2012–2024) and Edo de Waart (Artistic Director and Chief Conductor, 2004–2012). 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. Other recent recording projects include Mahler's Symphony no. 10, Shostakovich's Symphony no. 10, and Tchaikovsky's Symphony no. 6 and Piano Concerto no. 1.

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. The HK Phil celebrated its 50th anniversary in the 2023/24 season, touring Europe, Asia, and Mainland China, performing in 22 cities across ten countries.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Anja Bihlmaier, Stéphane Denève, Christoph Eschenbach, Paavo Järvi, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Vasily Petrenko, Krzysztof Urbański, Joshua Bell, Ning Feng, Boris Giltburg, Lang Lang, Leonidas Kavakos, Olivier Latry, Yo-Yo Ma 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 and outdoor spaces, bringing music into the hearts of tens of thousands of children and families every year.

The Swire Group has been the Principal Patron of the HK Phil since 2006. Through this current sponsorship donation, the largest in the orchestra's history, Swire endeavours to foster access to classical music and stimulate cultural participation in Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland. A critical aspect of this is engaging with the community, especially young people. The sponsorship will also help promote local artistic excellence 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.

The history of the HK Phil dates back to the establishment of the Sino-British Orchestra in 1947. In 1957, the orchestra was officially registered as the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra 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.