

HK Phil to Feature Stephen Hough in Concerts in Hong Kong and Guangzhou

[29 November 2024, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil), conducted by Resident Conductor Lio Kuokman, will present concerts at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall and Xinghai Concert Hall in Guangzhou this December. Hong Kong and Guangzhou audiences will have the opportunity to experience performances featuring the acclaimed pianist Stephen Hough, described by *The Economist* as one of the "Twenty Living Polymaths."

Swire Denim Series: Lio Kuokman & Stephen Hough (12 December)

"Whatever Stephen Hough plays, he either distils its essence or finds something strikingly new to say about it," praises *The Independent*. His complete recordings of Saint-Saëns' piano concertos won the Gramophone "Gold Disc" Award. Hough will perform Saint-Saëns' virtuosic *Egyptian Concerto*, a work the composer referred to as "a kind of voyage in the East." The concert will open with Fazıl Say's *Grand Bazaar*, a vibrant piece that weaves together diverse cultural influences. Under Lio Kuokman's direction, this musical journey will culminate in a performance of Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, a monumental masterpiece inspired by the composer's passionate infatuation with an actress and the complex nature of obsession.

"Swire Denim Series: Lio Kuokman & Stephen Hough" will be held on 12 December 2024 (Thu) at 8PM at 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.

HK Phil 2024 Guangzhou Concert (14 December)

Following the Hong Kong performance, Hough and the orchestra will travel to Guangzhou for a weekend concert. The first half of the programme will mirror the Hong Kong concert, featuring Fazıl Say's *Grand Bazaar* and Saint-Saëns' *Egyptian Concerto*. The evening will conclude with Lio Kuokman leading the orchestra in Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, a vividly orchestrated work inspired by the enchanting tales of *A Thousand and One Nights*. This concert is supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

"HK Phil 2024 Guangzhou Concert: Stephen Hough & Lio Kuokman with the HK Phil" will be held on 14 December 2024 (Sat) at 8PM at the Xinghai Concert Hall Symphony Hall in Guangzhou. Tickets are priced at RMB¥880, ¥680, ¥480, ¥380, ¥280 and ¥180. For ticketing information, please visit www.concerthall.com.cn.

The partnership between Xinghai Concert Hall and HK Phil began in September 2019. In March and April 2025, HK Phil is set to return to Guangzhou, continuing to share exceptional music with a wider audience.



Artists

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

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.

Stephen Hough, piano [\[full description\]](#)

Named by *The Economist* as one of Twenty Living Polymaths, Stephen Hough combines a distinguished career as a pianist with those of composer and writer. He was the first classical performer to be awarded a MacArthur Fellowship, was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the New Year Honours 2014, and was awarded a Knighthood for Services to Music in the Queen’s Birthday Honours 2022. Concerto highlights include engagements with Oslo Philharmonic, Bergen Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony, Dusseldorf Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Seattle Symphony Orchestra, and Nagoya and Seoul Philharmonic Orchestras.

SWIRE DENIM SERIES: LIO KUOKMAN & STEPHEN HOUGH

12 | 12 | 2024

THU 8:00PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

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

Tickets now available at URBIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Lio Kuokman](#) conductor
[Stephen Hough](#) piano

Programme

Fazil SAY *Grand Bazaar*
SAINT-SAËNS *Piano Concerto no. 5, Egyptian*
BERLIOZ *Symphonie fantastique*

HK PHIL 2024 GUANGZHOU CONCERT: STEPHEN HOUGH & LIO KUOKMAN WITH THE HK PHIL

14 | 12 | 2024

SAT 8:00PM

Xinghai Concert Hall Symphony Hall

¥880 ¥680 ¥480 ¥380 ¥280 ¥180

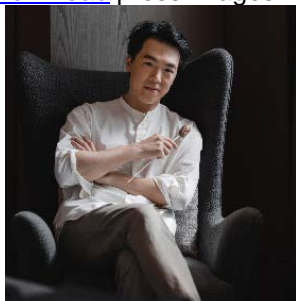
Artists

[Lio Kuokman](#) conductor
[Stephen Hough](#) piano

Programme

Fazil SAY *Grand Bazaar*
SAINT-SAËNS *Piano Concerto no. 5, Egyptian*
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV *Scheherazade*

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Lio Kuokman
Photo: Jane Tang



Stephen Hough
Photo: Sim Canetty-Clarke



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
Photo: Ka Lam/HK Phil

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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 Urbanski, 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.