

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: 17 May 2013

Musical Giant Vladimir Ashkenazy Makes his Début with Hong Kong Philharmonic (24&25 May)

Swedish Soprano Camilla Tilling Dazzles in Richard Strauss' *Four Last Songs*

[17 May 2013, Hong Kong] Warm-hearted, superb musicianship has characterized [Vladimir Ashkenazy](#)'s career, both as pianist and conductor. A living legend, his music-making is always thrilling and his interpretations sublimely artistic. In 2011, Maestro led the **Hong Kong Philharmonic (HK Phil)** in the Gala Performance of The Hong Kong International Piano Competition. In his début in the Hong Kong Philharmonic's season, Maestro Ashkenazy will bring passionate masterworks - Sibelius' Fifth Symphony, a heroic celebration of Finland's native wonders evoking profound darkness and gleaming light, and Richard Strauss' *Don Juan*, a vivid musical portrait of the blustering and reckless lover.

Joining Maestro Ashkenazy on stage will be acclaimed Swedish soprano [Camilla Tilling](#), who will sing Richard Strauss' magical *Four Last Songs*, the composer's final work written on his deathbed and marking his farewell to life and love. Richard Strauss had a special affinity for the soprano voice.

Masterworks: "Ashkenazy Conducts" will be held on **24&25 May 2013 (Fri & Sat), 8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Concert Hall**. Tickets priced: \$420, \$320, \$220, \$160 are now available at URBTIX. Free pre-concert talks will be given on both nights at 7:15pm, also at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. For enquiry, please call 2721 2030 or visit www.hkphil.org.

24 May performance is sponsored by CIC Investor Services Limited

Artists

Vladimir Ashkenazy , conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

One of the few artists who have combined a successful career as a pianist and conductor, Vladimir Ashkenazy first came to world prominence in the 1955 Chopin Competition and the Queen Elisabeth Competition in 1956.

In 2009 he became Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Sydney Symphony having previously held posts of Chief Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic and Music Director of the NHK Symphony. Ashkenazy has a long-standing relationship with Philharmonia Orchestra in London (Conductor Laureate since 2000). In addition to world tours with them, he also developed landmark international projects such as 'Prokofiev and Shostakovich Under Stalin'.

Ashkenazy is also Music Director of the European Union Youth Orchestra with whom he tours annually, and Conductor Laureate of the Iceland Symphony. He maintains strong links with major orchestras including Cleveland Orchestra (formerly Principal Guest Conductor) and Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (Chief Conductor and Music Director 1988-1996).

Camilla Tilling, soprano [[full biography](#)]

“If you’re choosing an Angel, you can’t improve on the lightness and charm of the soprano Camilla Tilling.”

--- *The Guardian*

Swedish soprano Camilla Tilling’s international career was launched at New York’s City Opera, and by the end of the subsequent two seasons she had made débuts at Covent Garden, the Aix-en-Provence and Glyndebourne festivals, La Monnaie Brussels and at the Metropolitan Opera New York.

Over the past decade, Camilla Tilling’s operatic career has flourished with major engagements on both sides of the Atlantic: At the Covent Garden (*Die Zauberflöte*, *Der Rosenkavalier* and *Hänsel und Gretel*), Teatro alla Scala (in *Idomeneo*, released on DVD), the Metropolitan Opera (*Don Giovanni* and *Falstaff*), as well as appearances at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Bavarian State Opera, Opéra National de Paris, San Francisco Opera, De Nederlandse Opera, Teatro Real, Madrid and at the Saito Kinen Festival, Japan.

Among the many distinguished conductors with whom she has collaborated are Antonio Pappano, James Levine, Sir Andrew Davis, Seiji Ozawa, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Daniel Harding and the late Sir Charles Mackerras. Recent concert highlights have included appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, l’Orchestre National de France, San Francisco Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Orchestre de Paris and the Berlin Philharmonic.

Masterworks: Ashkenazy Conducts

24&25 | 5 | 2013

FRI & SAT 8PM

HK Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$420 \$320 \$220 \$160

Available at URBTIX now

For ages 6 and above

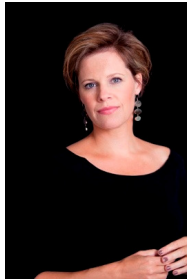
The 24 May performance is sponsored by CIC Investor Services Limited

Artists

[Vladimir Ashkenazy](#) conductor

[Camilla Tilling](#) soprano

Click the thumbnails to download press images [Or hold Ctrl then click to open the file]



Programme

R STRAUSS *Don Juan*

R STRAUSS *Four Last Songs*

SIBELIUS *Symphony No.5*

Ticketing Information

Credit Card Booking

(852) 2111 5999

Online Booking

www.urbtix.hk

For programme enquiry, please call HK Phil at

(852) 2721 2030

Or go on our website:

www.hkphil.org

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Hong Kong Philharmonic

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

As the city's largest and busiest musical organisation, the Hong Kong Philharmonic is a vital part of Hong Kong's cultural life. In 2013/14 the HK Phil will celebrate its 40th professional season, but its roots stretch back well over a century. The HK Phil has now evolved into an orchestral powerhouse of the region, and an acclaimed cultural centrepiece of Asia's World City.

The HK Phil is founded on the belief that a great city deserves a great orchestra. Annually it presents over 150 concerts for 200,000 music lovers. Featuring an enviable roster of international and local artists, with many concerts presented free, among them the annual *Swire Symphony Under The Stars*. Through its acclaimed education programme, over 40,000 young people learned about orchestral music last year.

The HK Phil's members come from every corner of the globe, joining its strong core of Hong Kong musicians. In September 2012, Jaap van Zweden became the orchestra's Music Director. Future years will see an ambitious series of new projects, with major international tours, renewed local partnerships, and large-scale concert events. The HK Phil has recently commenced a multi-CD recording project for Naxos, featuring works by Chinese composers.

The Hong Kong Philharmonic is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic
The Hong Kong Philharmonic is a Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre