

**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: 23 Jun 2014

## **HK Phil 2013/14 Season Finale** **The Macallan Bravo Series: A Midsummer Night's Dream (4 & 5 July)**

[23 June 2014, Hong Kong] Welcome the summer and celebrate the 2013/14 season finale of the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)**. Conductor **Nicholas McGegan** returns to conduct the HK Phil. He will be joined by acclaimed actors **Adam Levy** and **Alexandra Gilbreath**, both long-time stars of the Royal Shakespeare Company, soprano **Yuki Ip**, mezzo-soprano **Samantha Chong** and the Ladies of the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus** to bring Mendelssohn's music and Shakespeare's words in the magical *Midsummer Night's Dream* alive. The programme will also include two other works by Mendelssohn, *The Fair Melusine* and Three Motets (**4 & 5 July**).

"The course of true love never did run smooth," wrote Shakespeare - but that makes it all the more fun to watch! And with Mendelssohn's vivid music, it is also a treat to listen to, as the wonderful mix of madcap fun, jilted lovers, magic potions and fairy mischief mingle unfolds before the ears and the eyes.

*The Fair Melusine* also displays Mendelssohn's passion for literature and his sense of drama in his musical overture depicting this medieval French tale. The story tells of a water sprite who adopts human form in order to marry a human.

Audiences will also enjoy three of Mendelssohn's motet settings, inspired by the music he experienced while visiting the great churches in Rome.

**The Macallan Bravo Series: A Midsummer Night's Dream** will be held on **4 & 5 July 2014 (Fri & Sat), 8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets priced: \$420, \$320, \$220, \$160 are now available at [URBTIX](http://URBTIX). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit [www.hkphil.org](http://www.hkphil.org).

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* is sponsored by *The Macallan*.

### **Artists**

#### **Nicholas McGegan, conductor** [\[full biography\]](#)

Hailed as "one of the finest baroque conductors of his generation" (Independent) and "an expert in 18th-century style" (The New Yorker), Nicholas McGegan, through 27 years as its Music Director, has established the San Francisco-based Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Philharmonia Chorale as the leading period performance ensembles in America with notable appearances at the Carnegie Hall, the London Proms, the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and the International Handel Festival, Göttingen where he was Artistic Director from 1991 to 2011.

#### **Alexandra Gilbreath, actress**

Award-winning English actress Alexandra Gilbreath is widely known for her work both on stage and screen. An Associate Artist of the Royal Shakespeare Company, she has appeared in numerous RSC productions, including *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tamer Tamed*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Twelfth Night*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, and *As You Like It*. Her work on the British television series *Monarch of the Glen* brought her worldwide attention. Alexandra Gilbreath's other television credits include *Absolute Power*, *Midsomer Murders*, *The Commander*, *Casualty*, *Trial & Retribution* and *The Bill*.

#### **Adam Levy, actor**

Adam Levy trained at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in London. He has worked extensively in film, theatre and television. A member of the Royal National Theatre and The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) for many years, he has also worked extensively in the movie industry. RSC productions in which he has appeared include: *The Winter's Tale*, *Henry IV Part 1*, *Richard II*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Troilus and Cressida*. Adam has recently completed work on the

feature film *Before I Go to Sleep*, playing opposite Nicole Kidman. He is currently playing the role of Bentivolio in *Borgia*, due for release in the coming year.

## Masterworks: The Macallan Bravo Series: A Midsummer Night's Dream

4 & 5 | 7 | 2014

FRI & SAT 8PM

HK Cultural Centre Concert Hall

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

Tickets now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* is sponsored by *The Macallan*.

### Artists

[Nicholas McGegan](#)

conductor

Alexandra Gilbreath

actress

Adam Levy

actor

Ladies of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus

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



Nicholas McGegan



Alexandra Gilbreath



Adam Levy



Ladies of the HK Phil Chorus  
Photo Credit: Cheung Chi Wai

HK Philharmonic Orchestra  
Photo Credit: Keith Hiro / HK Phil

### Programme

**MENDELSSOHN**

*The Fair Melusine*, op.32

**MENDELSSOHN**

Three Motets, op. 39

**MENDELSSOHN**

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*: Overture and Incidental Music

## Ticketing Information

Credit Card Booking

**+852 2111 5999**

Online Booking

[www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)

For programme enquiry, please call HK Phil at

**+852 2721 2332**

Or go on our website:

[www.hkphil.org](http://www.hkphil.org)

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## Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

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

The HK Phil is formed on the belief that a great city deserves a great orchestra. Annually it presents over 150 concerts attracting over 200,000 music lovers. Featuring an enviable roster of international conductors and soloists, the HK Phil performs a broad variety of music, 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 in the last year.

The Swire Group Charitable Trust has been the Principal Patron of the HK Phil since 2006. Swire's enlightened support, the most generous in the orchestra's history, continues to enable the orchestra to reach towards high artistic goals.

The HK Phil's members come from every corner of the globe, with a 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 commenced a multi-CD recording project for Naxos, featuring works by Chinese composers.

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is a Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre