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The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra announces its 45th Professional Season – Marking 45 Years of the Finest Music-Making

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[2 May 2018, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) and its Music Director Jaap van Zweden today announced its 2018/19 season, which marks the orchestra's 45th professional season, with a line-up of 38 programmes with no less than 20 premieres, presenting Hong Kong debuts of great stars such as Michel Camilo, Alexandre Desplat, Max Richter and more.

- HK Phil's 45th – the three most recent Artistic/Music Directors of the HK Phil – Jaap van Zweden, Edo de Waart and David Atherton, together with HK Phil's Principal Guest Conductor Yu Long, celebrate the 45th anniversary of the HK Phil
- Highlights of programmes conducted by Music Director Jaap van Zweden
- Selections of great Conductors and Soloists – Leonard Slatkin, Osmo Vänskä, Joshua Bell, Khatia Buniatishvili, Michel Camilo, Augustin Hadelich, Leila Josefowicz, Evgeny Kissin, Gil Shaham and more
- HK Phil Principals and HK artists in the season – Lin Jiang, Jing Wang, Rachel Cheung, Wong Chun-wai, Austin Yip, Piano Duo Ping and Ting and Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus
- New series introduced

HK Phil's 45th

To celebrate the 45th professional season of the finest music-making, the orchestra's current **Music Director Jaap van Zweden**, **Principal Guest Conductor Yu Long**, and former **Music Director David Atherton** and **Artistic Director Edo de Waart**, each of whom marked important milestones in the development of the HK Phil, will conduct the orchestra, presenting this special series.

The season opening concerts feature **Jaap van Zweden** and the visionary star violinist **Leila Josefowicz**, presenting two Russian masterpieces – **Stravinsky's** fierce **Violin Concerto** and **Rachmaninov's** romantically beautiful **Symphony no. 2** (31 August & 1 September 2018).

Former Artistic Director **Edo de Waart** once again leads the orchestra in **Brahms's** delightful **Symphony no. 2**. In the same programme, **Timothy McAllister**, one of today's foremost saxophonists, will perform the **Saxophone Concerto** by Pulitzer-Prize and Grammy-award winning composer **John Adams**, for whom de Waart is a keen advocate (14 & 15 September 2018).

HK Phil's Conductor Laureate **David Atherton** will be conducting masterpieces by three of his native British composers, including **The Planets Suite** by **Holst**, with the **Ladies of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus**. He will be joined by Grammy-winning and phenomenal violin talent **Augustin Hadelich** in **Britten's Violin Concerto** (7 & 8 June 2019).

HK Phil's Principal Guest Conductor **Yu Long**, together with German cellist **Alban Gerhardt**, who returns after a highly acclaimed performance in 2016, will bring **Barber's** expressive **Cello Concerto** to the stage. The second half of the concert will take an exotic turn with **Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade**, a musical re-telling of the beguiling stories *The Arabian Nights* (14 & 15 December 2018).

In this season, Music Director **Jaap van Zweden** will be conducting TEN exciting concert programmes with the HK Phil.

- After the season-opening with **Leila Josefowicz** (31 August & 1 September 2018) will come a programme featuring one of the most distinguished violinists of our time, **Joshua Bell**, who returns to the HK Phil with **Sibelius's** great **Violin Concerto** after 11 years. Jaap van Zweden concludes the concert with one of **Mozart's** most popular symphonies, **Symphony no. 41**, nicknamed **Jupiter**, which is full of radiance and solemnity (7 & 8 September 2018).
- Maestro van Zweden will again conduct a shimmering **all-Mozart programme** including **Symphony no. 1** which Mozart composed at the age of eight, and **Symphony no. 40**, which is arguably the most popular of all of Mozart's forty-one symphonies. The programme will also feature the HK Phil's Principal Horn, **Jiang Lin**, in **Mozart's Horn Concerto no. 4** (19 & 20 April 2019).
- Apart from classic repertoire, this season sees no less than 20 regional premieres including **John Corigliano's Symphony no. 1**, generated by feelings of loss, anger and frustration. Maestro van Zweden will introduce this to the Hong Kong audience in a concert which also includes the **world premiere** of an **HK Phil commission** from local composer **Wong Chun-wai**, as well as Hong Kong pianist **Rachel Cheung** in **Ravel's Piano Concerto in G** (10 & 11 May 2019).
- **Mahler \$200**. Acclaimed as "A Great Mahler Interpreter" by the *D Magazine*, Jaap van Zweden will be conducting **Mahler's Symphony no. 9** (16 & 17 November 2018) and **Symphony no. 7** (26 & 27 April 2019). All tickets for these two programmes will be available at a uniform price of HK\$200 as a new special project in the milestone of our 45th professional season.
- Maestro van Zweden will be continuing the Mahler cycle with **Mahler Symphony no. 2, Resurrection**. This shattering work of genius is approximately 90 minutes long and will feature soprano **Ying Fang**, mezzo-soprano **Karen Cargill**, the **Netherlands Radio Choir** and the **Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus** (17 & 18 May 2019).
- Jaap will also conduct many great symphonies by other composers, including **Tchaikovsky's Symphony no. 4** (19 & 20 October 2018); and **Bruckner's Symphony no. 7** (3 & 4 May 2019).
- **Swire Symphony Under The Stars**. Maestro van Zweden will return to the podium at the Central Harbourfront and conduct our biggest annual outdoor symphonic event, **Swire Symphony Under The Stars**. Feel the power of Jaap van Zweden next to the spectacular harbour view of Hong Kong (24 November 2018).

Conductors and Soloists in the Spotlight

In its 45th anniversary season, the HK Phil is delighted to welcome many celebrated international guest conductors and soloists to our stage.

Guest Conductors

Internationally acclaimed conductor **Leonard Slatkin** is praised for his versatility and his excellent performances of iconic American works. He will conduct the orchestra in signature pieces from several leading American composers of the last century. Starting with the Southeast Asian premiere of **Rouse's** sombre yet fierce **The Infernal Machine**, followed by **Barber's** emotionally-charged **Adagio for Strings** and **Bernstein's** hopeful **Chichester Psalms** with the **Eton College Chapel Choir**. The concert concludes with **Tchaikovsky's** magnificent **Symphony no. 5**, a work which speaks directly to the heart through its colourful orchestration (5 & 6 April 2019).

Finnish conductor **Osmo Vänskä**, who won a Grammy Award in 2014 for “Best Orchestral Performance” for one of his Sibelius albums, will lead the HK Phil on a Finnish journey, with **Sibelius’ Finlandia** as the concert opener, and **Symphony no. 2** by the same composer to conclude the concert (28 & 29 June 2019).

Strings

American-Canadian violinist **Leila Josefowicz** is famed for her in-depth understanding of 20th century and contemporary music. She plays contemporary music almost exclusively, but Stravinsky is one of the few exceptions to that. In the season opening concerts, she will play **Stravinsky’s** fierce **Violin Concerto** under the baton of Jaap van Zweden (31 August & 1 September 2018). Also with Maestro van Zweden will be **Joshua Bell**, one of the most prominent violinists of our time and widely acclaimed for his exuberant technique and imaginative playing. He will return to the HK Phil with **Sibelius’s** great **Violin Concerto** (7 & 8 September 2018).

Grammy-winning and phenomenal violin talent **Augustin Hadelich** will return to our stage with HK Phil’s Conductor Laureate **David Atherton** in **Britten’s Violin Concerto**, one of the major violin concertos of the post-war years (7 & 8 June 2019). Superstar violinist **Gil Shaham’s** flawless technique combined with his inimitable warmth and generosity of spirit has solidified his renown as an American master. In a Czech-themed evening, Gil Shaham returns to perform **Dvořák’s Violin Concerto** under the baton of **Yu Long** (21 & 22 June 2019).

Pianists

Evgeny Kissin came to international attention in 1984 when, at the age of twelve, he performed Chopin’s Piano Concertos 1 and 2 in the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory. The legendary pianist will be playing **Liszt’s** spectacular **Piano Concerto no. 1** with conductor **Andris Poga** (5 December 2018 - one performance only).

Georgian pianist **Khatia Buniatishvili**, who has swept the globe with her fiery musicianship, will be on the stage together with the HK Phil under the baton of Jaap van Zweden, in one of **Mozart’s** most popular and influential **Piano Concerto no. 20** (3 & 4 May 2019).

Clarinet

Magnus Lindberg’s Clarinet Concerto, written for **Kari Kriikku**, has received more than 100 performances since its premiere in 2002. The piece, which is lyrical, expressive and colourfully orchestrated, is a marvellous vehicle to showcase the amazing ability of virtuoso clarinetist Kari Kriikku (28 & 29 June 2019).

Vocalist

The much-loved Broadway diva **Lea Salonga** will return to Hong Kong. Apart from “The Human Heart” from the Broadway Musical *Once On This Island*, Lea will also sing songs from popular musicals (such as *Miss Saigon*), Disney movies (such as *Frozen*) and more (8 & 9 February 2019).

Hong Kong Talents

In this 45th anniversary season, the HK Phil is excited to announce the performance of two works by two Hong Kong composers. **The HK Phil’s commission** from local composer **Wong Chun-wai** will have its world premiere, conducted by Music Director Jaap van Zweden. In the same programme, Hong Kong pianist **Rachel Cheung**, finalist and Audience Award winner at the 15th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, showcases her poetic musicianship and compelling music-making in **Ravel’s Piano Concerto in G**. This programme is a testament to the vital role young musicians play in Hong Kong’s classical music scene (10 & 11 May 2019).

Austin Yip’s Metamorphosis, which was one of the four commissioned pieces in the Hong Kong Composer Showcase 2017, will be performed by the HK Phil in its mainstage programme conducted by Huang Yi (28 & 29 September 2018).

In a programme that features innovative portrayals of dreams by French and Japanese composers, Japanese composer **Tōru Takemitsu's double piano concerto – Quotation of Dream** – brings together conductor **Jun Märkl** and **Piano Duo Ping and Ting** of twin sisters Lok-ping and Lok-ting Chau, laureates of ARD International Music Competition renowned for their fine musicality and fascinating synchronicity. HK Phil's Principal Oboe Michael Wilson will perform **Takashi Yoshimatsu's Dream Colored Mobile II**, which is also having its premiere in China (24 & 25 May 2019).

From the ranks of the HK Phil, our own Concertmaster **Jing Wang** will perform Brahms' beautiful **Violin Concerto** (19 & 20 October 2018), while Principal Horn **Lin Jiang** is featured in **Mozart's irresistible Horn Concerto no. 4** (19 & 20 April 2019), both with Music Director Jaap van Zweden. Other HK Phil Principal players will also shine in **Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante**, with returning conductor **David Stern** (11 January 2019, one performance only).

More Programmes to Anticipate

"In this exciting new season, the HK Phil is proud to introduce two new series with the intention of inspiring audiences to discover different aspects of orchestral music", said Fung Lam, Director of Artistic Planning of the HK Phil.

Discover Series

In the Discover Series, the HK Phil will be moving from the Hong Kong Cultural Centre to Tsuen Wan Town Hall and Sha Tin Town Hall to reach out to a wider audience, and to inspire them to discover some different aspects of orchestral music. The HK Phil and its audience will solve a murder mystery about the killing of a composer in **Nathaniel Stookey's The Composer is Dead!**, which is a modern-day *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*. The programme also features other detective-themed music, such as the *Pink Panther* and different *Sherlock* soundtracks (21 & 22 September 2018).

Conductor **Benjamin Bayl** will return to the HK Phil and, along with 19-year-old Dutch recorder player **Lucie Horsch**, explore a series of Baroque music for chamber orchestra (9 & 10 November 2018). There will also be a Halloween-themed concert conducted by **Lio Kuok-man** and hosted by **Harry Wong** (aka Harry Goh Goh), to share the love and laughter of orchestral music (27 & 28 October 2018).

Silver Screen Series

A gripping movie always comes with a good film score. In the Silver Screen Series, apart from the movies in concert format which have proved to be popular, the HK Phil is thrilled to welcome a pair of star film and TV composers to the stage to perform their own music. Multiple award-winning **Alexandre Desplat**, whose film score for *The Shape of Water* has just won him his second Academy Award for Best Original Score, will conduct his signature works and transport us back to the touching moments in the films (4 & 5 January 2019).

Max Richter's artistry transcends boundaries and his wide range of works can be heard not only in the concert hall, but also in dance and cinema. Max Richter will visit Hong Kong and play his own compositions under the baton of American conductor **Robert Ziegler**. These concerts offer a refreshing listening experience with his best-known compositions, **Recomposed** and **Memoryhouse**. The former is his acclaimed reworking of Vivaldi's classic *Four Seasons* and the latter is a lush and lyrical postcard journal of 20th century Europe (30 November & 1 December 2018).

Do not miss the two *Star Wars* Movie in Concert programmes at the end of the season, when **Star Wars IV – A New Hope** (4 & 6 July 2019) and **Star Wars V – The Empire Strikes Back** (5 & 6 July 2019) will be screened to live music from the HK Phil conducted by **Benjamin Northey**.

Swire Denim Series

The Swire Denim Series offers a relaxing weekend option for busy urbanites, as well as an unusual alternative for music lovers. This season we have invited **classical music comedy duo Igudesman & Joo**, who caused a sensation around the world with their creative theatrical concerts filled with fun and dazzling displays of virtuosity. The programme will include the Asian premiere of the duo's latest creation *Clash of the Soloists* and more (10, 11 & 14 April 2019).

Not everyone can cross the boundaries of jazz, Latin and Classical music with ease, but this is what Dominican pianist and composer **Michel Camilo** is celebrated for. The Grammy, Emmy & Latin Grammy Award Winning Pianist and Composer will host two nights of jazz with the HK Phil. In his belated Hong Kong debut, he will perform his own **Piano Concerto no. 1** which features his powerful virtuoso piano playing and jazzy American sounds, and **Gershwin's** all-time favourite *Rhapsody in Blue*. The performance is not to be missed and promises to be a most relaxing and enjoyable event (14 & 15 June 2019).

Joint effort with HK Ballet

The HK Phil will team up with **Hong Kong Ballet** for an exhilarating evening celebrating 21st century drive and innovation and bringing together a unique cadre of international talents. **AfterRite** is a reconceptualisation of Igor Stravinsky's iconic and notorious *The Rite of Spring*, the score of which still excites and stimulates audiences today with its amazing raw and primal rhythms. **The Year of the Rabbit** is a joyful and imaginative work set to a live orchestral adaptation of Sufjan Stevens's Chinese astrology-inspired electronic score (31 May – 2 June 2019).

Subscriptions run from 8 May until 8 July 2018

The 2018/19 HK Phil subscription campaign will continue to have two phases.

Current subscribers can renew their subscription before 28 May 2018 to enjoy the best savings and best seats.

Subscriptions will then be open to the **public** from **1 June to 8 July 2018**. During this period, subscribers can still enjoy the best savings.

Subscribers are eligible for discounts up to 25%; the more concerts purchased, the greater the savings. Students, seniors, disabled and CSSA recipients receive 50% off subscription and single ticket purchases (excluding "Mahler \$200").

Single Ticket for concerts (including "Mahler \$200") will be available at URBTIX from **16 July 2018 (Monday)**.

How to subscribe

There are four ways to subscribe:

1. Mail: HK Phil Subscription Office, Level 8, Administration Building, HKCC, TST
2. Online: www.hkphil.org/1819sub
3. Email: subscriptions@hkphil.org
4. Fax: 2721 1487

Other Important Initiatives of the HK Phil

Jockey Club Keys To Music Education Programme

Thanks to generous sponsorship from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the **Jockey Club Keys To Music Education Programme** has brought tremendous benefits to local teachers and students every season since 2012. More than 140,000 students and educators have been inspired by the musical activities – Schools Concerts, Ensemble Visits, Instrumental Masterclasses and Teachers’ Seminars – presented by the HK Phil. For more information, please visit ktm.hkphil.org.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust is the exclusive sponsors of the Jockey Club Keys To Music Education Programme

The Tung Foundation – Young Audience Scheme

Presented by the HK Phil and sponsored by The Tung Foundation, **Young Audience Scheme** has been founded for 20 years. It offers full-time local primary or secondary students exclusive access to your orchestra and world-class musicians. An HK Phil Junior will enjoy activities and events organised by the HK Phil, year-round privileges and discounts, as well as other rewards schemes and souvenirs. For more information, please visit yas.hkphil.org.

The Young Audience Scheme is sponsored by The Tung Foundation

HK Phil Community Concert

Music enriches the way people think, feel and live their lives. It helps build up a harmonious society, and because of this, the HK Phil values its role of bringing music to the community. The HK Phil Community Concert is a long-established initiative reaching out to students and communities, providing world-class symphonic music for the public of Hong Kong free-of-charge. We engage students in the Community Concert as a means of nurturing future local musicians and audiences. It also helps boost their confidence, communication, cooperation and listening skills.

Connect with Us

The HK Phil’s informative website hkphil.org offers the latest concert and ticketing information. Music lovers can also stay tuned through the HK Phil’s updates on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/HKPhil and **Instagram** at <https://www.instagram.com/hkphilharmonic/>. Video from the HK Phil is also available on **YouTube** at www.youtube.com/HKPhilharmonic.

Radio and TV Broadcast by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)

Music lovers can enjoy some of the most memorable performances by the HK Phil through the broadcasts of **Radio Television Hong Kong** which connect the HK Phil with audiences in all parts of the world.

The HK Phil would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to the following partners for their support:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- The HK Phil's 2018/19 Season starts on **31 August 2018 (Friday)**
- **Subscribers' benefits** include **priority seats, flexible ticketing services** and **best savings**
- **Season Subscription Booking Deadline: 8 July 2018 (Sunday)**
- **Single Ticket** will be available at **URBTIX** from **16 July 2018 (Monday)**
- **Season Subscription Enquiries: 2721 2332 / 2721 0132** or subscriptions@hkphil.org

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

Principal Guest Conductor: Yu Long

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is recognised as Asia's foremost classical orchestra. Presenting more than 150 concerts over a 44-week season, the HK Phil attracts more than 200,000 music lovers annually.

Jaap van Zweden, one of today's most sought-after conductors, has been the orchestra's Music Director since the 2012/13 concert season, a position he will continue to hold until at least 2022. Maestro van Zweden will be the next Music Director of the New York Philharmonic from the 2018/19 season.

Yu Long was appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the HK Phil in the 2015/16 season, and continues in the position until at least 2021.

Under the dynamic leadership of Music Director Jaap van Zweden, the HK Phil has attained new heights of artistic excellence, garnering international critical acclaim.

Following on from the success of the European tour which included a filmed concert from Vienna's Musikverein, the HK Phil has toured extensively within the mainland China. In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, and with support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, the orchestra recently performed in Seoul, Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne and at the Sydney Opera House.

Jaap, the HK Phil, a superb cast of soloists and a chorus successfully completed the four-year epic "Ring Cycle" journey in January 2018. The concert performances and live Naxos recordings have been enthusiastically received by audiences and praised by critics at home and abroad. The recording of *Götterdämmerung* will be released towards the end of 2018.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, Matthias Goerne, Stephen Hough, Lang Lang, Yo-Yo Ma, Ning Feng and Yuja Wang.

The HK Phil promotes the work of Hong Kong and Chinese composers through an active commissioning programme, and has released recordings on the Naxos label featuring Tan Dun and Bright Sheng, each conducting their own compositions. Its acclaimed education and community engagement programmes in schools, hospitals and outdoor space, bring 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 sponsorship, which is the largest in the orchestra's history, Swire endeavours to promote artistic excellence, foster access to classical music and stimulate cultural participation in Hong Kong, and to enhance Hong Kong's reputation as one of the great cities of the world.

Thanks to a significant subsidy from the Hong Kong Government 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, among others, 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 charitable organisation.

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and is Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.