

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 29 August 2018

Breaking News! The Composer is Dead!

Join the HK Phil, conductor Christian Reif and narrator Eric Monson on a mysterious orchestral tour

Discover: The Composer is Dead! (21 & 22 Sept)

[29 August 2018 - Hong Kong] We need your help in the concert hall to find who killed the composer! The **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil)** is going to reveal the mysterious world of the orchestra by dissecting the instruments and sections with Nathaniel Stookey's entertaining whodunit *The Composer is Dead* and also soundtracks from the best-loved BBC TV drama series and movies of legendary detective Sherlock Holmes on **21 & 22 September 2018** in the **Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium**.

“Someday you'll be able to tell your grandchildren that you appreciated a living composer before that living composer became, like all composers, dead”

--- Nathaniel Stookey

“Inspector” [Eric Monson](#) will lead the interrogation of the wily strings, the devious clarinets and other suspects on stage, even conductor [Christian Reif](#), to find the clues and untangle the truth together with you all! *The Composer is Dead* is a modern-day *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* in a murder-mystery setting. While you are investigating, Eric is going to interview each section of the orchestra. They will profess their innocence and so to solve the mystery, he will revisit the cases of many other dead composers including Beethoven, Schubert, Berlioz, Wagner, Mahler and Tchaikovsky.

The evening will feature other detective-themed music, such as the *Pink Panther*, a wonderfully laid-back, soft-jazz theme; and various Sherlock Holmes soundtracks, building a scene of the darker side of criminal life in Victorian London. No matter Sherlock Holmes or Canon Doyle fanatics, don't miss the perfect chance to enjoy a platter of music from world-famous BBC TV drama series and movies of “adventurer” Sherlock Holmes.

So, dear all potential inspectors, get your astute and witty minds ready, we are not leaving the auditorium until the crime is solved!

English narration with Chinese surtitles.

Discover: The Composer is Dead! will be held on **21 & 22 Sep (Fri & Sat), 8PM** in the **Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium**. Tickets priced: \$380 \$320 \$280 \$220 are now available at [URBTIX](#). For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit www.hkphil.org.

Artists

Christian Reif, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

One of the most promising conducting talents of his generation, German-born Christian Reif is Resident Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony and Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra. He started in San Francisco in the 2016/17 season following two years in Miami as Conducting Fellow with the New World Symphony, working closely with Michael Tilson Thomas. In the 2018/19 season he will make debut with the Omaha Symphony, and return to work with the Nürnberger Symphoniker, Berkeley Symphony and San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Eric Monson, narrator [\[full biography\]](#)

American baritone, Eric Monson, has been performing around the world for over 25 years. He has been working with several Grammy and Tony award winners and maintains a steady schedule of performing, conducting and teaching. In 1998, Eric formed Metro Vocal Group. Metro Vocal Group has been performing around the world ever since, receiving over 25 million views on various online platforms, and is known for their ability to sing in both Cantonese and Mandarin. This has included multiple performances on Hunan TV and CCTV, Tokyo and Hong Kong Disney, and collaborated with such artists as G.E.M., Hacken Lee and Hanjin, to name a few.

DISCOVER: THE COMPOSER IS DEAD!

21 & 22 | 9 | 2018

FRI & SAT 8PM

Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium

HK\$380 \$320 \$280 \$220

Tickets are now available at URBTIX

For ages 6 and above

Artists

[Christian Reif](#)

conductor

[Eric Monson](#)

narrator

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



Christian Reif



Eric Monson

Photo Credit: King's Production



The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Cheung Chi-Wai/HK Phil

Programme

Henry MANCINI

The Pink Panther Theme

Hans ZIMMER

Music from *Sherlock Holmes* (Asia premiere)

David ARNOLD &

Sherlock Suite from BBC Series

Michael PRICE

Nathaniel STOOKEY

The Composer is Dead (HK premiere)

and more

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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 is the 26th Music Director of the New York Philharmonic from the 2018/19 season.

Yu Long has been appointed Principal Guest Conductor since the 2015/16 season.

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 2017, 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 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 an epic four-year journey through Wagner's "Ring Cycle" 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, hospital 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, the Hong Kong Arts Festival and the Hong Kong Ballet.

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.