

**PRESS RELEASE  
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**PREMIERE PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
A MUSICAL GIFT FOR HONG KONG –  
A FREE CONCERT IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

- Concert to take place 24 September at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall
- Registration begins 17 August at 10:00am
- Local and international stars to share the stage

Premiere Performances of Hong Kong, presenter of the world's best performers of classical music and chamber music in Hong Kong, will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary by presenting a **FREE CONCERT on 24 September (Sunday, 8pm) at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall.**

The concert will feature many of the world-famous artists Premiere Performances has presented over the past ten years including **Ning Feng** (violin), **Sa Chen** (piano), **Cho-Liang Lin** (violin), **Maxim Rysanov** (viola), **Li-Wei Qin** (cello), **Da Xun Zhang** (double bass), **Alessio Bax** (piano) and **Lucille Chung** (piano). Performing as soloists and in small ensembles, the programme will feature short, well-known pieces and a rich variety of instrumental combinations, giving audiences an opportunity to experience chamber music at its finest.

Several local talents will also take the stage, making this concert a showcase of outstanding Hong Kong artists alongside an international array of stars.

The concert celebrates Premiere Performances' significant achievements of the past ten years. As Hong Kong's main presenter of recitals, Premiere Performances' 50 recitals since 2007 have featured some of the world's biggest names, many of them in their Hong Kong debut, as well as the hottest up-and-coming stars. Premiere Performances' **Hong Kong International Chamber Music Festival**, launched in 2009, virtually introduced chamber music to Hong Kong's classical music scene. And Premiere Performances' extraordinary **Chamber Music in Schools** programme has brought 165 performances to over 51,000 students since its inception five years ago and is one of the principal live-music experiences in schools today.

"Premiere Performances has had a real impact on the cultural life of Hong Kong," said Andrea D. Fessler, Founder and Executive Director. "Over the past ten years, there has been huge growth in the number of chamber music concerts in the local classical music scene, as well as recitals by international rising stars. I am so proud that Premiere Performances has built a culture of chamber music in Hong Kong."

In addition to the free concert, Premiere Performances will also host a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Fundraising Dinner on 23 September (Saturday) at the Liang Yi Museum. This unique and intimate event features a private salon concert with the international artists performing at the following evening's concert, followed by an elegant sit-down dinner.

Tickets for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Concert are free but must be secured in advance. Tickets are available beginning **THURSDAY, 17 AUGUST at 10 a.m. through [www.pphk.org](http://www.pphk.org), or at the Enquiry Counter of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre (9:00 a.m.) onwards.**

**For more information:**

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## **About Premiere Performances**

Premiere Performances brings internationally celebrated artists and the world's brightest rising stars to Hong Kong for solo recitals, chamber music and community outreach, building a vibrant local arts scene and inspiring audience members of all ages with performances that are accessible to all.

## **What is chamber music?**

Chamber music is a form of classical music played by small ensembles of two to ten players. Unlike music played by soloists or in an orchestra, each instrument in chamber music has its own unique voice, and the players are in close musical conversation with each other.

## **PREMIERE PERFORMANCES' 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA CONCERT ARTISTS**

Artist photos available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p40ursty7cknyxp/AABSpkR0PRZemx-651k0ZtsRa?dl=0>

### **NING FENG, Violin**

Ning Feng is one of China's most celebrated classical musicians and a Hong Kong favourite. He is renowned globally as an artist of great lyricism, emotional transparency, and bravura. Recent successes include debuts with the LA Philharmonic and Frankfurt Radio Symphony, a tour of China with Vasily Petrenko and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, and European and SE Asia/Australia tours with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and Jaap van Zweden. In recital and chamber music he performs regularly in major festivals including Kissinger Sommer, Heidelberg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schubertiade and La Jolla Music Society.

*Ning Feng performed at the 2012 and 2013 Hong Kong International Chamber Music Festivals, and in Premiere Performances' Recital Series in 2010, with Javier Perianes in 2014, and with the Southbank Sinfonia in 2015.*

### **CHO-LIANG LIN, violin**

Violinist Cho-Liang Lin is lauded for the eloquence of his playing and superb musicianship. In his international concert career, he is equally at home with an orchestra, in recital, playing chamber music, and as a teacher. He has been Music Director of La Jolla Music Society's SummerFest since 2001 and has a permanent position on the University's Shepherd School of Music. Cho-Liang Lin's extensive discography includes recordings for Sony Classical, Decca, Ondine, Naxos and BIS.

*Cho-Liang Lin has been a performer and the Artistic Director of the Hong Kong International Chamber Music Festival since 2012.*

### **LI-WEI QIN, cello**

Chinese cellist Li-Wei Qin has appeared all over the world as a soloist and chamber musician. Li-Wei has enjoyed successful artistic collaborations with many of the world's great orchestras and worked with leading conductors including Jaap van Zweden, Marek Janowski, Hans Graf, Yu Long, and the late Lord Menuhin. In recitals and chamber music, Li-Wei is a regular guest at Wigmore Hall and for the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society. He has appeared at the BBC Proms, Rheingau, City of London, and Mecklenburg Festivals.

*Li-Wei performed at the 2017 Hong Kong International Chamber Music Festival.*

### **DAXUN ZHANG, double bass**

Chinese double bassist DaXun Zhang has established an international career as an eminent soloist on an unusual instrument. He enjoyed early successes, becoming the first double bassist to win the Young Concert Artists International Auditions (2003) and the second bassist awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant (2007). Mr. Zhang has appeared as a soloist with orchestras including the Minnesota Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony and Pacific Symphony. His diverse recital repertoire ranges from western classical to Chinese folk music. He has performed extensively with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble.

*DaXun Zhang has performed at the 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016 Hong Kong International Chamber Music Festivals.*

**MAXIM RYSANOV, viola**

Ukrainian-British violist and conductor Maxim Rysanov has established himself as one of the world's most vibrant and charismatic musicians. As a violist, he has performed at major international events such as BBC Last Night of the Proms, Verbier, Great Mountain, Edinburgh, and Salzburg festivals. Maxim is the winner of the Classic FM Gramophone Young Artist of the Year Award and the BBC Radio 3 New Generation Award, as well as the Geneva, Lionel Tertis and Valentino Bucchi competitions.

*Rysanov performed in Premiere Performances' Recital Series in 2012 and the 2014 Hong Kong International Chamber Music Festival.*

**SA CHEN, piano**

Chinese pianist Sa Chen is described as "one of the brightest performers of her generation" by Classic FM in London. She was the first pianist to win top prizes at the Leeds, Chopin, and Van Cliburn piano competitions. Sa Chen has given recitals in the world's major music centres including Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, and Sydney Opera House. She has performed with leading orchestras including the Israel Philharmonic, London Philharmonic Orchestra, and Los Angeles Philharmonic, with conductors including Sir Simon Rattle, Leonard Slatkin, and James Conlon.

*Sa Chen performed at the 2013 Hong Kong International Chamber Music Festival.*

**ALESSIO BAX, piano**

"Pianist Alessio Bax is clearly among the most remarkable young pianists now before the public", said *Gramophone* "Editor's Choice" about this remarkable performer. First Prize winner at the Leeds and Hamamatsu International Piano Competitions and a 2009 Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient, he has appeared as soloist with more than 100 orchestras, including the London and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras, Dallas and Houston Symphonies, NHK Symphony in Japan, and the City of Birmingham Symphony with Sir Simon Rattle.

*Alessio Bax performed in Premiere Performances' Recital Series with Lucille Chung in 2013.*

**LUCILLE CHUNG, piano**

Born in Montréal, Canadian pianist Lucille Chung has been acclaimed for her "stylish and refined performances" by *Gramophone* magazine, "combining vigour and suppleness with natural eloquence and elegance" (*Le Soir*). She has performed an extensive concerto repertoire with over 60 leading orchestras including the Philadelphia Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Fort Worth Symphony, with conductors including Krzysztof Penderecki, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and Peter Oundjian. She has also recorded numerous widely acclaimed albums both as a soloist and with Alessio Bax.

*Lucille Chung performed in Premiere Performances' Recital Series with Alessio Bax in 2013.*

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