

20 July 2017



PREMIERE PERFORMANCES MARKS 10 YEARS OF INSPIRING CLASSICAL MUSIC IN HONG KONG

- **700% rise in chamber music concerts since Premiere Performances launched Hong Kong International Chamber Music Festival in 2009**
- **50 recitals presented by Premiere Performances' Recital Series**
- **More than 60,000 children reached through Premiere Performances' Chamber Music In Schools initiative**

20 July 2017—Premiere Performances, Hong Kong's leading presenter of recitals and chamber music, has inspired rapid growth in Hong Kong's classical music scene since its debut 10 years ago.

Since Premiere Performances launched the annual **Hong Kong International Chamber Music Festival** in 2009, the number of chamber music concerts has grown by more than 700% (15 in 2008 to 131 in 2016). The number of chamber music presenters has also grown from 3 to 22 over the same period. The Chamber Music Festival features free concerts, open rehearsals, lectures and masterclasses.

Since Premiere Performances' first **Recital Series** in 2007, Hong Kong audiences have enjoyed nearly 50 recitals. These have featured the Hong Kong recital debuts of artists who were then up-and-coming stars including Yuja Wang (piano), Nicola Benedetti (violin) and Miloš Karadaglić (guitar), as well as internationally renowned artists such as Stephen Hough (piano), Gabriela Montero (piano) and Jerusalem String Quartet.

More than 60,000 young people have also benefitted from Premiere Performances' **Chamber Music In Schools** initiative, which brings specially designed music education programmes, live performances, workshops and teacher training to schools throughout the city. Since 2012, the majority (80%) of participating teachers have gained new insights into music teaching while nearly half (45%) of students who did not play a musical instrument before the programme wanted to start learning one after participating in it.

Premiere Performances was launched in 2007 by Canadian Andrea Fessler who, when she moved to Hong Kong, perceived a strong demand for classical musical concerts but a lack of available offerings.

"I am so proud of the impact Premiere Performances has had over the past decade," said Andrea Fessler, the group's founder and executive director. "All our concerts are world-class, and when people experience live performances at that level—even when it's something new to them like chamber music or a new artist—it is always an amazing and rewarding experience. We're so excited for the years to come and the chance to connect more talented artists to appreciative audiences."

To celebrate its 10-year anniversary, Premiere Performances is presenting a **free concert on 24 September (Sunday) at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall** featuring many of the top international and local artists who have graced its stages over the years. Tickets are free but must be secured in advance **beginning THURSDAY, 17 AUGUST at 10am through www.pphk.org, or at the Enquiry Counter of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre (9am) onwards.**

For more information:

Media Contact: Johnny Yip

Telephone: +852 2811 2107 / 9450 6610

Email: johnny.yip@pphk.org

Media Contact: Maxson Tsang

Telephone: +852 2586 7820 / 6017 4887

Email: maxson.tsang@fleshman.com

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.

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