



## **Members of the Shenzhen, Philadelphia and Macao Orchestras Come Together for Stunning Performance of “Ode to Humanity”**

*Classical music returns to Macao under baton of local conductor*

**(Macao, Feb. 4, 2014)** – Musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra returned to Macao Wednesday night and gave a stunning performance of **“Ode to Humanity” – A Symphony Concert with Over 100 Choristers** at The Venetian® Macao’s Venetian Theatre under the watchful eye of Macao-born conductor Lio Kuokman. The Venetian Macao served as Presenting Sponsor again this year.

The performance featured members of the Shenzhen, Philadelphia and Macao Orchestras, who served up an unforgettable musical treat for the Venetian Theatre audience in a first-of-its-kind collaboration. They silkily moved through the seven-part performance (one prelude, one coda and five movements), in which each movement represented a core concept of Confucianism: Benevolence (Ren), Righteousness (Yi), Etiquette (Li), Wisdom (Zhi) and Integrity (Xin). The audience, clearly entertained, responded with an enthusiastic standing ovation.

**“Ode to Humanity”** paid tribute to 2,000 years of Confucianism and expressed the core values of human civilization through music. This East meets West performance also represented a cultural bridge between the three groups performing together.

"As a Macao native, I am very honoured to come back with musicians of the Philadelphia Orchestra for this unique performance at The Venetian Macao. It was an amazing experience working together with the musicians from Macao and Shen Zhen and to share our love of music on stage," said Lio.

The event was supported by the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao S.A.R. government and was part of Pearl River Delta Residency Week, for which The Venetian Macao served as Presenting Sponsor again this year, which is part of Sands China's commitment to diversifying the cultural landscape of Macao.



**Photo caption:** Members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Macao Orchestra and Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra give a stunning performance of ***“Ode to Humanity” – A Symphony Concert with Over 100 Choristers*** under the baton of Macao's accomplished conductor Lio Kuokman at The Venetian Macao's Venetian Theatre Wednesday night.



**Photo caption:** The Venetian Macao served as Presenting Sponsor again this year, which is part of Sands China's commitment to diversifying the cultural landscape of Macao. (From left to right) Francis Kan, Assistant Conductor of The Macao Orchestra; Kate Kammeyer, Orchestra Manager of The Philadelphia Orchestra; Ambassador Nicholas Platt; David Baxley, Assistant Vice President of Entertainment; conductor Lio Kuokman; Huang Guangqing, Assistant to Orchestra Chief and Principal Double Bass of Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra; Ka Wong, Promotion and Marketing of The Macao Orchestra; Freda Wong, Senior Consultant of The Philadelphia Orchestra; Craig Hamilton, Vice president of global initiatives and government relations for The Philadelphia Orchestra.

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#### **Entertainment at Sands China Ltd. Resorts**

Sands China Ltd. has as a clear vision to establish Macao as Asia's top entertainment destination.

The 15,000-seat Cotai Arena is the only venue in Asia ranked in *Pollstar's* Top 100 Worldwide Arena Venues based on ticket sales. It is the top entertainment destination in southern China, hosting the world's and the region's biggest names in music, sports and awards shows. Superstars frequently choose the venue as the starting point of their Asian tours.

The 1800-seat, multi-purpose Venetian Theatre is one of the most luxurious entertainment venues in greater China. Featuring ushers in black-tie, champagne service, gourmet food and beverage items and other unique, premium amenities, it offers an intimate, luxurious and exclusive venue experience. The Venetian Theatre is playing a key role in bringing the best in international and Chinese entertainment to Macao, with a luxury theatre experience like no other in the region.

The 650-seat Sands Theatre regularly features internationally-renowned singers, performers and artists of the highest calibre. From traditional Chinese-costumed dancers to modern performances, and from singing troupes to contemporary bands, everything from Western rock to Cantonese pop is covered.

With an unbeatable diversity, the entertainment offering of Sands China Ltd. is ushering in a new era of entertainment in Macao.

For more information about upcoming shows and events, visit <http://en.sandsresortsmacao.com/macau-shows.html> or [www.sandsmacao.com/entertainment.html](http://www.sandsmacao.com/entertainment.html).

### **About The Philadelphia Orchestra**

The Philadelphia Orchestra is one of the preeminent orchestras in the world, renowned for its distinctive sound, desired for its keen ability to capture the hearts and imaginations of audiences, and admired for a legacy of innovation in music-making. The Orchestra is inspiring the future and transforming its rich tradition of achievement, sustaining the highest level of artistic quality, but also challenging—and exceeding—that level by creating powerful musical experiences for audiences at home and around the world.

Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin triumphantly opened his inaugural season as the eighth artistic leader of The Philadelphia Orchestra in the fall of 2012. His highly collaborative style, deeply-rooted musical curiosity, and boundless enthusiasm, paired with a fresh approach to orchestral programming, have been heralded by critics and audiences alike. The New York Times has called him “phenomenal,” adding that under his baton, “the ensemble ... has never sounded better.” He is embraced by the musicians of the Orchestra, audiences, and the community itself. His concerts of diverse repertoire attract sold-out houses, and he has established a regular forum for connecting with concert-goers through Post-Concert Conversations.

Under Nézet-Séguin’s leadership the Orchestra returns to recording with a newly-released CD on the Deutsche Grammophon label of Stravinsky’s *The Rite of Spring* and Leopold Stokowski transcriptions. In his inaugural season the Orchestra has also returned to the radio airwaves, with weekly Sunday afternoon broadcasts on WRTI-FM.

Philadelphia is home and the Orchestra nurtures an important relationship not only with patrons who support the main season at the Kimmel Center but also those who enjoy the Orchestra’s other area performances at the Mann Center, Penn’s Landing, and other venues. The Philadelphia Orchestra Association also continues to own the Academy of Music, a National Historic Landmark.

The Philadelphia Orchestra maintains a strong commitment to collaborations with cultural and community organizations on a regional and national level. Since Orchestra President and CEO Allison Vulgamore’s arrival in 2010 the Orchestra has reinvigorated and launched new partnerships with Opera Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Ballet, Philadelphia Live Arts (FringeArts), Philadanco, the Curtis Institute of Music, Ridge Theater Company, and stage director James Alexander, among others.

Through concerts, tours, residencies, presentations, and recordings, the Orchestra is a global ambassador for Philadelphia and for the United States. Having been the first American orchestra to perform in China, in 1973 at the request of President Nixon, today The Philadelphia Orchestra boasts a new partnership with the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing. The ensemble annually performs at Carnegie Hall while also enjoying a three-week residency in Saratoga Springs, New York, and a strong partnership with the Bravo! Vail Festival.

The Philadelphia Orchestra continues its decades-long tradition of presenting learning and community engagement opportunities for listeners of all ages across the Delaware Valley. Concerts for families and schoolchildren; eZseatU, which allows full-time college students to attend an unlimited number of Orchestra concerts for a \$25 annual membership fee; free Neighborhood Concerts; and PreConcert Conversations before every subscription concert are only a few examples of ways in which the Orchestra introduces orchestral music to a new generation of listeners.

Musician-led initiatives, including recent highly-successful PlayINs, shine a spotlight on the Orchestra’s musicians, as they spread out from the stage into the community, and serve a key role in growing young musician talent and a love of classical music in their own dedicated roles as teachers, coaches, and mentors.

For more information on The Philadelphia Orchestra, please visit <http://www.philorch.org>.

### **About the Macao Orchestra**

The Macao Orchestra is a professional ensemble, organized under the auspices of the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao Special Administrative Region Government. For the past twenty-odd years, the Macao Orchestra has played an important role in the musical life of Macao. Beginning in September 2008, Lü Jia has taken over as Music Director and Principal Conductor, once again marking a turning point in the Orchestra's history. The Orchestra has included several Concert Series in every season, presenting both Western and Chinese masterpieces in a comprehensive and systematic way, and thereby encouraging the pursuit of music among a broader public. Through its refined performance style and high quality concerts, the Orchestra has become a symbol of Macao's prosperity as an international cultural city.

The Orchestra has worked with dozens of internationally renowned musicians and conductors and has been invited to tour around Mainland China, reaching 30 cities in 14 provinces. The Orchestra has also been invited to perform in Portugal, Spain and the U.S.A. The Macao Orchestra successfully presented its charms and strengths, becoming a cultural brand name of Macao in addition to vigorously promoting the achievements of cultural development made by the Macao SAR and the cultural image of Macao. Dedicated to organizing activities related to arts education targeting audiences of different age groups, the Orchestra has provided a number of opportunities for local music students and local organizations to showcase their talents. All of which embraces the high regard and continued care of the Macao SAR in enhancing the cultural quality of local residents, particularly teenagers.

### **About Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra**

Founded in 1982, Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra is being steered by the current president Mr. Chen Chuansong, and music director now is professor Christian Ehwald, the director of Conductor Faculty, "Hanns Eisler" Conservatory in Berlin. During the period from 1985 to 2007, the chief conductors and music directors presented respectively included well-known conductor Yao Guan Rong, professor Zhang Guoyong and professor Yu Feng.

As the guest conductors, such as Delun Lee, Tang Muhai, Chen Zuohuang and foreign conductors including Daniel Oren, Lior Shambadal, Husco Michael, Foster, Smart, etc., contributed a great deal to improving the performance level of the orchestra. The successful cooperation also embedded with famous composers of Erich Kunzel, Tan Dun, and well-known performers, such as Kun Woo Paik, Lang Lang, Yundi Lee, Midori, Chen Xi, Cory Roger, Wang Jian, Qin Liwei, etc., as well as the top singers, including Jose Carreras, Carlow Struly, He Hui and Dai Yuqiang, etc..

Over the last 30 years, the orchestra accumulated a large sum of classic repertoire both at home and abroad. It keeps sponsoring over hundred of concerts each year.

Since 1987, the orchestra has not only based at Shenzhen, touring show around the country, HK, Macau and Taiwan, but also travelling to Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and India, Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, France, Italy and Turkey. The orchestra has been nominated into the 3rd China International Piano Competition, China (Shenzhen ) International Piano Concerto Competition and China Conductor's Competition in terms of Concerto Orchestra, and presented respectively at key gala of CCTV, China International Chorus Festival, Beijing Modern Music Festival, National Center for the Performing Arts Festival, SZ ICIF Art Festival, Turkish Istanbul Music Day, Italian Milt Fister Festival, French Dinar Festival and the world first Buddhism Forum with overwhelming appreciation since 2004.

In Jan. 2007, as being invited by French National Military Museum, Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra performed at St. Louis Cathedral, Hotel des Invalides de Paris, which turned out to be the first Asian music troupe showing the dedicated concert at such a music palace.

In September 21, 2013, as being invited by UNESCO, Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra performed <“Ode to Humanism” Choral Symphony> at Auditorium of UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France with a huge success. In August, 2014, Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra performed <“Ode to Humanism” Choral Symphony> in Taiwan with a huge success too.

Since 2005, the Orchestra has successfully held three sessions of China Composing Doctorate Music Works Concert and two competitions of local symphonic works. It has achieved a great deal in terms of success by working out respectively the large scale Buddhist choral Symphony <Harmony of the Divine Land>, < Symphonie Ballad· New Tone of Hakka>, Confucius choral symphony <Ode to Virtue>, etc..

#### **About the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra Chorus**

Founded in June 2007, the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra Chorus (SSOC) is a non-professional choral group whose members come from a variety of walks in the city. Its current director is Yang Hongwei, and its artistic supervisor and conductor Wang Jun.

Among its repertoire are “Great Buddhist Music of China”, “The Symphony of Hakka”, “Mass for Peace”, and “Chanting of Buddhist Bliss”. The SSOC also participated in many influential galas such as “An Ode to Our Motherland” and “A Wondrous Land” in celebration of National Day, both organized by the China Central Television. Its annual Christmas Choral Concert has been critically acclaimed.

**APPENDIX**

**Repertoire**

***“Ode to Humanity” – A Symphony Concert with Over 100 Choristers***

**Wednesday, Feb. 4, 7:45 p.m.**

**Initiator:** Wang Jingsheng

**Writer:** Yi Heng

**Composer:** Wang Ning

**Conductor:** Lio Kuokman

**Orchestra:** Members from The Philadelphia Orchestra, Macao Orchestra and Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra

**Chorus:** Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra Chorus

**PRELUDE—BEGINNING SONG**

**THE FIRST MOVEMENT: BENEVOLENCE**

**THE SECOND MOVEMENT: RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**THE THIRD MOVEMENT: ETIQUETTE**

**THE FOURTH MOVEMENT: WISDOM**

**THE FIFTH MOVEMENT: INTEGRITY —CODA**

**ENDING SONG**