

A New Vision of Incomparable Art
ICBC (Asia) Sponsors the Finale Performance of the 42nd Hong Kong Arts Festival
Savonlinna Opera Festival – Gala Concert

13 March 2014, Hong Kong – In support of Hong Kong’s arts development, ICBC (Asia) sponsors the finale performance of the 42nd Hong Kong Arts Festival for the second year running. This year, the city’s most highly regarded international arts event will mark its completion with the spectacular Savonlinna Opera Festival *Gala Concert* on 22 March.

Led by renowned conductor Jari Härmäläinen, the Savonlinna Opera Festival Choir will present to followers of timeless art a gala of 19th Century opera music in collaboration with international soloists and the Hong Kong Philharmonic. This ensemble is set to close the Arts Festival with a grand epilogue in unforgettable style.

“ICBC (Asia) strongly believes in assisting Hong Kong in promoting international arts events and artistic endeavours,” says **Mr. Chen Aiping, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ICBC (Asia)**. “It is our great pleasure to be supporting the Hong Kong Arts Festival Finale which features the Savonlinna Opera Festival Choir, world-class vocalists, and the Hong Kong Philharmonic.”

Named one of the five best opera and classical festivals by *The Guardian*, the Savonlinna Opera Festival *Gala Concert* features the most celebrated work of legendary German composer Richard Wagner, with excerpts from *Rienzi*, *Tannhäuser* and *Tristan und Isolde* promising a breathtaking showcase of Wagner’s epic style. Equally exciting is Italy’s grandest spectacle in the lyric theatre, *Aida* by Giuseppe Verdi. Verdi’s reputation as the greatest of all Italian opera composers is beyond dispute.

Incomparable music, matchless voices – opera enthusiasts in Hong Kong will experience some of the most imaginative opera music ever composed and the best that the Savonlinna Opera Festival singers have to offer.

Concert Date: Saturday, 22 March 2014
Venue: Concert Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

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Photo caption:

World-renowned Finnish Savonlinna Opera Festival Choir will present the Savonlinna Opera Festival *Gala Concert* at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre on 22 March and close this year's Arts Festival with masterpieces of German and Italian opera music from the 19th Century.

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