

# Auction giant Poly brings renowned Chinese orchestra for Vancouver opening



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One of China's best-known orchestras, the China Philharmonic. *HANDOUT / PNG*

One of the largest companies to set up a regional headquarters in Vancouver in recent years will kick off local operations with a rare display of its cultural clout in its home market in China.

Poly Culture Group, which operates the world's third-largest auction house as well as China's largest theatre operations and management network, will bring the China Philharmonic Orchestra (one of that country's highest-profile ensembles) to Vancouver for a performance at UBC's Chan Centre on Nov. 30, in partnership with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

The date coincides with the opening of Poly's North American headquarters in downtown Vancouver, as well as the completion of a "flagship art gallery" located at 905 W. Pender St.

Poly signed a deal in late 2015 with HQ Vancouver, a group created by the provincial and federal governments and the Business Council of B.C. to bring more Asian businesses to the province.

"We could not have picked a more perfect city than Vancouver for Poly Culture Group's first permanent investment in North America," said Poly CEO Jiang Yingchun in a statement. "The performance by the China Philharmonic Orchestra and the unveiling of Poly Culture North America's state-of-the-art gallery will mark the start of a historic partnership between British Columbia and Poly Culture Group."

Poly has grown with the rise of the Chinese economy in the last two decades, and now rivals established auction houses such as Christie's and Sotheby's as the world's biggest art dealers. Total auctioned value reached \$1.58 billion in 2014. In addition, it operates a wide array of museums, theatres and other cultural venues in China.

The parent company, China Poly Group Corp., is one of the largest conglomerates in China, dealing in multiple sectors from real estate development and financial asset management to defence technology.

Poly Culture North America has been operating out of a temporary office in Richmond since earlier this year. It had considered cities such as San Francisco before deciding on Vancouver.

Chen Yi, CEO of Poly Culture North America, said while the orchestra's performance is important to show the potential of cultural and economic cooperation, the event is also to thank B.C. for helping them establish a foothold in Canada.

"Since the establishment of our head office, we have received a very warm welcome from local communities and local offices," Chen said. "It is our goal to continue to enhance cultural ties between Canada and China as we continue our operations."

The China Philharmonic is known in China for performing for foreign dignitaries, as well as going on high-profile tours in Asia, Europe and North America. The orchestra performed in front of Pope Benedict during a visit to the Vatican, and in July was featured during the visit of a high-ranking Russian delegation to Beijing.

The VSO will be the presenting partner for the event and will handle promotions and ticketing. More information can be found at

[vancouversymphony.ca/chinaphilharmonic](http://vancouversymphony.ca/chinaphilharmonic)  
(<http://vancouversymphony.ca/chinaphilharmonic>).

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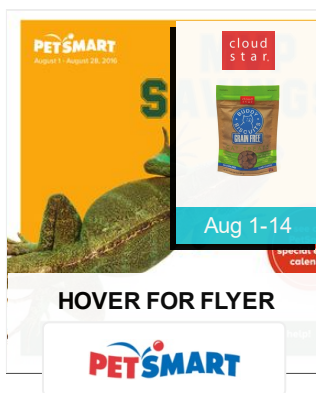
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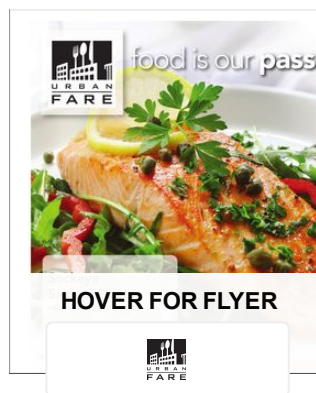


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