

Carolyn Kuan
Conductor



Recognized as a conductor of extraordinary versatility, *Carolyn Kuan* has enjoyed successful associations with top tier orchestras, opera companies, ballet companies, and festivals worldwide. Her commitment to contemporary music has defined her approach to programming and established her as an international resource for new music and world premieres. Appointed Music Director of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra in 2011, she has signed a six-year contract extending their creative collaboration through May 2022.

Ms. Kuan's North American engagements have included performances with the symphonies of Baltimore, Detroit, Milwaukee, Omaha, San Francisco, Seattle, and Toronto; the Florida and Louisville orchestras; the New York City

Ballet; the Colorado Music Festival and Glimmerglass Festival; the New York City Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and Washington National Opera. Recent international engagements have included concerts with the Bournemouth Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, National Symphony of Taiwan, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Residentie Orkest, Orquesta Sinfonica de Yucatan, Royal Danish Ballet, and the West Australian Symphony. Highlights of the 2018/2019 season include debuts with the Singapore Symphony; Santa Barbara Symphony, featuring John Corigliano's *Red Violin*; and the Portland Opera, conducting a production of Rossini's *La Cenerentola*.

Carolyn Kuan's 2016/2017 season began with a project sponsored by Beth Morrison Projects, called *Ouroboros Trilogy*, a three-part exploration of life, death, and rebirth as symbolized by the ancient Greek icon of a serpent eating its own tail. Working with composer Scott Wheeler, she directed *Naga*, one of the three operas commissioned for the trilogy. The season ended with the sensational premiere of Philip Glass's opera *The Trial* with the Opera Theatre of St. Louis.

The recipient of numerous awards, *Ms. Kuan* holds the distinction of being the first woman to be awarded the Herbert von Karajan Conducting Fellowship in 2003, resulting in her residency at the 2004 Salzburg Festival. She graduated cum laude from Smith College and received a Master of Music degree from the University of Illinois and a Performance Diploma from the Peabody Conservatory.