

# Malta House of Care



## Carolyn Kuan: Music Director, Hartford Symphony Orchestra

It is small wonder that Hartford resident [Carolyn Kuan](#), the Music Director of the [Hartford Symphony Orchestra](#), has been called “one of the most exciting and innovative conductors of her generation.” Widely recognized as a maestra of extraordinary versatility, Carolyn brought a broad traditional repertoire and a unique expertise in Asian music and contemporary works to the Greater Hartford music community when she joined the HSO in 2011. Happily, her new contract will have her remaining here in Hartford until 2022 (at least!).



Carolyn has enjoyed successful associations with top-tier orchestras, opera companies, ballet companies, and festivals worldwide. Here in North America, she has performed with the symphonies in five cities; the operas in three cities; the Florida and Louisville orchestras; the New York City Ballet; and the Colorado Music Festival and Glimmerglass Festival. Internationally, her engagements have included the Hong Kong Philharmonic, Royal Danish Ballet, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and the West Australian Symphony -- to name just a few.

In addition, Carolyn directed the annual San Francisco Symphony Chinese New Year concert from 2007-12; helped the Seattle Symphony launch the hugely successful Celebrate Asia! program; and conducted multimedia productions of the Butterfly Lovers' Concerto and A Monkey's Tale for the Detroit Symphony.

Her commitment to contemporary music has defined Carolyn's approach to programming and has made the world take notice of the Hartford Symphony. For instance, on Jan. 26, 2017, HSO musicians played for the first time at Real Art Ways, in a chamber music concert called "[Scribing the Void](#)." She says: "Our DNA is being part of the community, serving the community; we want to give listeners the same great music but with a different experience."

The recipient of numerous awards, in 2003 Carolyn was the first female to be awarded the Herbert von Karajan Conducting Fellowship in Austria. A cum laude graduate of Smith College, she earned a Master of Music from the University of Illinois and a Performance Diploma from the Peabody Conservatory.