

Quarter Notes

HSO Music Director Carolyn Kuan signs new six-year contract

On April 15, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra shared good news with the public: Music Director Carolyn Kuan signed a new, six-year contract, continuing her commitment to the Hartford Symphony through May of 2022. Maestra Kuan became the HSO's 10th Music Director in 2011, and her new contract begins with the 2016-2017 season.

We proudly share more good news: in November of this year, Maestra Kuan will be recognized at the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame ceremony as a Global Impact Honoree.

Since she arrived at the HSO, Maestra Kuan has elevated the artistic excellence of our orchestra through exceptional programming, such as this past season's year-long exploration of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 4, culminating in performances of that work in May. She regularly introduces new repertoire to HSO audiences,

such as beatboxer Shodekeh. In 2012, the orchestra's performance of Xian's *Yellow River Cantata*, featuring the Kang Hua Singers of Greater Hartford and the Hartford Chorale, was recorded for news broadcast in China. In 2013, she led the New England premiere of *Life: A Journey Through Time*, a multimedia performance with the music of Phillip Glass and photographs by National Geographic photographer Frans Lanting.

Maestra Kuan is currently developing the upcoming multimedia-enhanced concert *Love Notes* in February 2016 and a concert staging of *Orpheus & Euridice: Transformed* in April 2016.

"It is an honor to serve the Hartford Symphony Orchestra as Music Director," said Kuan. "Working with our amazing musicians, whose artistry and dedication mean the world to me, as well as with a devoted Board of Directors and staff, has made my experience



here in Hartford truly fulfilling. I love sharing music with our loyal audiences, and am passionate about collaborating with the diverse arts groups in our community. I'm very excited about the future of the HSO," Kuan continued. "We are dedicated to expanding our programming to enchant both traditional audiences and new audiences of all ages and interests. We want our audiences to experience symphonic and classical concerts in a way they never have before."



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What's New at the HSO? A few things!

Did you notice the new name of our newsletter?* Since we publish quarterly, the name "Quarter Notes" seemed more appropriate and a bit more "quirky." We've even altered the graphics to depict a quarter note in place of the eighth note that used to be there and the HSO logo (a great logo) is now back.

With the opening of the Masterworks season in October 2015, we will be sending out a new pre-concert "e-guide", giving concert-goers some insider information about the concert they are about to attend. This will not replace the excellent program notes in our concert program, but we will be on the lookout for some different (and hopefully fun!) facts about a composer, the piece or perhaps even the artist. We have not yet decided on a title for this new

e-guide. Perhaps "HSOap"? Or "Etudes"? If you have any good ideas for a title, please let us know! If you want to receive the new guide, which will only be sent in an electronic format, make sure you have given us your email. Send your updated email (and any great title ideas for our new e-publication) to Ruth Sovronsky at rsovrnsky@hartfordsymphony.org or call 860-760-7321.

For our Concertmaster's Club donors and higher, we are delighted to announce a brand new **Patron Desk** and a new phone number: **860-760-7326**. Our new Development Assistant, Stephanie Wilson, is ready to answer your questions and handle all ticketing issues or exchanges.

**This is not the first time the name of the HSO Newsletter has changed. Many of you may remember "Capriccio" (defined as a musical composition in a free, irregular style).*

NEW DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Jared Chase

An avid supporter of the Hartford Symphony, 33-year-old Jared Chase recently joined the Concertmaster's Club. Regarding the HSO as a "community treasure," Jared's increased involvement as a donor and subscriber mirrors his growing admiration for the group's musicianship and civic engagement.

In fourth grade, after seeing a professional cellist perform at his school, Jared announced his plans to become a cellist. Amused but impressed, Jared's parents arranged for cello lessons and trips to the HSO on birthdays and other special occasions. His lasting appreciation for orchestral music is a valuable outcome of his musical studies. ("Each time I heard myself play, my respect grew for the talent of professional musicians," he jokes.)

Now a staff writer and editor for a locally-based trade association for global institutional investors, Jared first selected HSO performances featuring familiar pieces and favorite composers. Over time, he discovered new favorites, and realized that a subscription offered wider exposure to new works. At 26, he became a Masterworks subscriber and soon afterward became a regular at Sunday Serenades performances.

A Hartford resident, Jared sees the city's vibrant cultural environment as an "adult campus," a place where world-class arts institutions and excellent dining are a short walk from his home or office. The HSO is an important part of the cultural landscape, and an indispensable resource for developing the



next generation of musicians and music-lovers. Thinking back to his own introduction to music, Jared believes all students should experience professional music in school. He applauds the HSO's In-School Ensembles and Discovery Concerts which bring live orchestral performances to schools and students to The Bushnell. He is also gratified to see the orchestra support the work of present-day composers – whose creations are thrillingly new to even the most seasoned of concertgoers.

Jared knows that reaching the level of musical excellence and innovation audiences see at every HSO performance depends on the financial commitment of an extended community of concertgoers and patrons. For him, it all comes down to nurturing musical talent for our collective benefit. "Live performances of that caliber are transformative experiences," he says, "and we should honor those who give us that gift each season."





MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

Brian Diehl

Tell us how you began in music.

I began trumpet in 2nd grade but when my mom's school band needed trombones I was "drafted" to the trombones in 5th grade. Music was present in the family: my mom brought us to Tanglewood, my grandfather was a trumpeter and my father, a percussionist, played with jazz and Dixieland bands.

We know you have students; where do you teach?

I live in Andover, MA, where my wife runs the public school String. I drive all over New England – Boston, Springfield, Hartford – to perform and teach. I love the "oh yeah!" moment when a student gets it. I hope I've helped my students begin their journey of musical discovery – that is my greatest satisfaction.

Where did you study music?

I attended the Interlochen Arts Academy in High School, got my Bachelor of Music from Northwestern

University and my Masters of Music from New England Conservatory. I received the Presser Award and was the first brass player to be awarded the Rabb Presidential Scholarship. I also played with New World Symphony and the New World Brass Quintet.

Mackey's trombone concerto, *Harvest*, was wonderful. Was special preparation needed?

This was probably one of my biggest challenges as a soloist and trombonist. Carolyn's foresight made it happen. I began preparing about 16 months ago, as it was new to me. Mackey was thrilled we'd be playing his work four times on our Masterworks but there was no accompaniment or piano reduction to use for practice! When the rehearsal finally came along, I was both petrified and electrified to be playing this terrific piece.

What are your greatest musical memories?

Playing *Harvest* with the HSO! I've subbed with the Boston Symphony in Boston and in Carnegie Hall. I performed under Leonard Bernstein

at Tanglewood as a TMC fellow, and performed with the Chicago Symphony under George Solti. And with the New World Symphony under Michael Tilson Thomas, I got to tour and record.

What non-classical music do you enjoy?

I've had a blast playing POPS! and the music of the older rock legends I heard growing up. I love Jazz – my twin brother is a saxophone player and jazz teacher, so I'm always catching what's new from his "hit list." And I love Chicago and Earth Wind and Fire, probably (but not entirely) because they include horns in their music.

Name some interesting things you want audiences to know about you.

1. As a kid, I'd take apart broken clocks and radios to see if I could fix them. I still love to take things apart.
2. I love to sketch with colored pencils. The problem is in actually finishing – time usually runs short!
3. If I were not a musician, I'd probably work for a non-profit such as an arts institution, health care organization or a nature conservancy.

Bravo!

Bravo!, held May 16 at the Connecticut Convention Center, was truly an evening to remember! Our more than 275 guests enjoyed fabulous food, fun, auctions and were treated to a remarkable performance by Carolyn Kuan, the HSO musicians and guest vocalist Jamilyn Manning-White. Not only was the event a delight for those attending but it also exceeded expectations raising more than \$130,000 in net proceeds to support the HSO and its programs throughout the community. The HSO wishes to offer our most sincere thanks to our General Chair, Mrs. Margaret Lawson, our Vice Chairs, Nancy Bernstein, Donna Collins and Bonnie Malley, our Corporate Sponsors and our guests. It is because of each of you that the HSO is able to continue our historic tradition of artistic excellence and community impact. Thank you!



Wei and Henry Low, Denise D'Ascenzo



Jim Remis, Jerry and Barbara Hess, Nancy Remis



Jacqueline Coleman, Tony Falcetti, Tracy Flater, Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Carolyn Kuan



David Fay, Bob Patricelli, Peggy Beley and Margaret Patricelli



Jacqueline Coleman, Bud Jason and Barbara O. David



Chris and Eileen Dadlez, Jeffrey and Nancy Hoffman



Carolyn Kuan conducting the HSO



Guests join in the interactive performance fun



Carolyn Kuan and Margaret Lawson



Nancy Bernstein, Donna Collins, Carolyn Kuan and Bonnie Malley



Kevin Richardson, Angela Griffin, Denise and Abraham Davis, Pat and Ed Shirley



Dinesh Kapur, Jeff Verney, Carolyn Kuan and Leo Bonetti



Carolyn Kuan, Jim and Rebecca Loree

Introducing Christopher LaRosa - the Fanfare Competition Winner!

HSO's Fanfare Composition Competition challenged composers to create a new work entitled *Fanfare for the Hartford Woman* as a companion piece to Aaron Copland's iconic *Fanfare for the Common Man*. Our gifted winning composer, Christopher LaRosa, also proved to be charming, engaging and entertaining. He was with us through the rehearsal and 5 performances (which ended May 31st), and was at ease chatting on stage with Music Director Carolyn Kuan, explaining his creative process. At each performance, the audience response was exuberant. The *Hartford Courant* hailed the piece as "charismatic, well scored and positively received."

As new composers rarely hear their works performed live, Chris was grateful to the Hartford Symphony and our competition sponsors. Our leading sponsor, Dr. Albert Hurwit, a Hartford composer, has his composition, *Remembrance*, premiered by the Hartford Symphony approximately twelve years ago. To aid the symphony's commitment to composers, Dr. Hurwit became the Competition's first and primary sponsor. Others quickly followed, including the *Hartford Business Journal* (honoring the Women in Business Class 2015), and eleven remarkable women who united as a group to honor Carolyn Kuan and celebrate the women of Hartford:



Nancy Bernstein, Jo Champlin Casey, Donna Collins, Rosemary Gaidos, Rev. Susan S. Izard, Rebecca Corbin Loree, Bonnie Malley, Yvette Melendez, Patricia Salner, Catherine Smith and Diane Whitney. Our final Masterworks concert was also sponsored by the Saunders Fund for Innovative Programming.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Chris just completed his Masters of Music at Boston University and begins his Doctor of Musical Arts at Indiana University in the fall.

The Hartford and the HSO: a partnership dedicated to music and community

At The Hartford's recently dedicated Liam E. Magee Park located in the Asylum Hill neighborhood, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra Education Department presented the second annual "Lunch and Listen" concert series supported by The Hartford.

Guests included residents of the community, The Hartford, HARC, CBIA, Trinity Episcopal Day School and other surrounding schools and daycare centers. The concerts were engaging, interactive and encouraged audience members of all ages to sing, dance, and play along with their very own HSO egg shakers!

The A Piacere String Quartet concert on June 2nd featured Jarek Lis and Karen Fagerburg on violin, Michael

Wheeler on viola, Eric Dahlin on cello, and the

very talented guest vocalist, Janelle Robinson. Janelle performed in France and Japan, toured extensively within the US, and was in the recent Broadway productions of *Mary Poppins*, *Oklahoma* and Susan Stroman's revival of *Showboat*.

The June 11th Classical Jazz concert featured the HSO Classical Jazz Ensemble: Gene Bozzi (drum set), Rick Rozie (bass), Michael Pollard (violin), Walt Gwardyak (keyboard), Larry Gareau (trumpet) and Bob DePalma (saxophone.) The concert also highlighted the talents of two young Connecticut artists who have performed around the world: guest singer Alita Moses, recent graduate of The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA and winner of the Shure Montreux Jazz Vocal Competition in Switzerland, and



tap-dancer Corey Hutchins who has performed around the world as the star of *Riverdance* and most recently portrayed the legendary James Brown in the Apollo's production of *James Brown: Get on the Good Foot*.

The Hartford is a long-time supporter of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, providing support through community events as well as sponsorship of the Talcott Mountain Music Festival and POPS! concert series. We thank them for their community-mindedness and support of live music exposure through their partnership with the HSO.



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: Richard P. Garmany

Since Richard's death in July of 2008, The Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has been making grants. Given the Fund's transformational impact on the music landscape in Hartford, we spoke with David Polk, Richard's close friend in life, to learn about the man who charged David to act as his advisor to the Garmany Fund following his death.

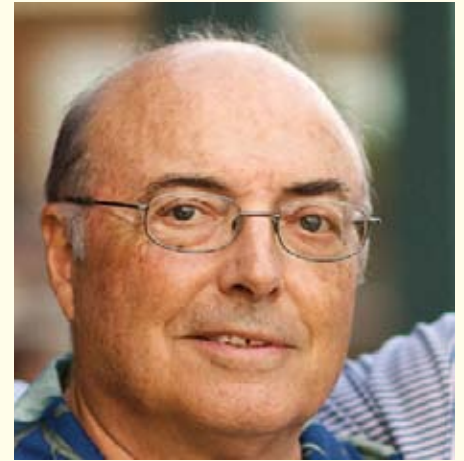
An only child raised by Depression-era parents, philanthropy was not part of Richard's upbringing. Born and raised in Texas, Richard quickly developed a deep and lasting love of Connecticut, the Farmington Valley and Hartford when he relocated here for work with Aetna. A gifted raconteur, Richard surrounded himself with diverse friends in theater, music, and the arts. He adored music and with friend Tim Stella (Broadway conductor and Hartt School graduate), Richard held piano and harpsichord recitals in his Simsbury home. Richard's passion for outdoors drew him to skiing, fishing, tennis and travel. He enjoyed HSO's Talcott Mountain Music Festival, which combined his two loves: music and outdoors. As David's regular guest at Talcott, Richard looked forward to picnicking with friends and listening to the glorious music.

In his 60's, Richard was diagnosed with MDS (myelodysplastic syndrome), a blood cancer. Although his illness was managed for several years, in March of 2008, an infection resulted in his final illness and a four-month hospitalization at Hartford Hospital. Single and without heirs, Richard decided to set up a Fund to "give it all away." Announcing his plans to his

friend, he promised, "We're gonna have a great time doing it." Richard's philanthropic priorities loosely focused on three areas: the advancement of classical music and the arts, the preservation of land, and health care, in gratitude for the excellent care received from Hartford Hospital. David asked Richard for clearer direction but Richard merely told his good friend, "David, you'll do fine." In July of 2008, at age 71, Richard passed away.

For seven years, the Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation has supported a wide array of endeavors. The Fund supports memory loss units at Duncaster, Avery Heights and the Alzheimers Association, as well as patient education programs at Hartford Hospital. The Fund contributed to the McLean Game Refuge and to Riverfront Recapture in clean-up efforts on the Connecticut River. The Fund helped preserve land in the Farmington Valley through the Granby Land Trust and Simsbury Land Trust. Countless art and music non-profit organizations in Hartford received support, including Hartford Performs (providing arts and music education to many of Hartford's public school children), the Charter Oak Cultural Center, and the Hill-Stead Museum's music program. Several years ago, the Fund provided seed money to Hartford Stage to workshop and produce a new musical, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, which has gone on to win huge acclaim including a Tony award.

In 2009, the Fund helped begin (and still supports) The Richard P. Garmany Chamber Music Series at The Hartt



School. Several years ago, hearing that the HSO's summer music festival was struggling, the Fund became (and remains) a leading sponsor of the symphony's Talcott Mountain Music Festival, helping to ensure the availability of great symphonic music in an outdoor venue. The Fund makes gifts to New England Public Radio to sustain classical music programming, and supports Connecticut public radio's Sunday evening broadcast of NPR's well-known "From The Top," featuring young talented musicians.

With assistance from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, David Polk has been "doing fine," and will continue to honor the legacy and wishes of his dear friend, who, he ponders "must be somewhere up there smiling, having a great time watching how much good we're doing in his name by giving it away."

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for Hartford and 28 surrounding communities. In 2015, the Foundation celebrates 90 years of grantmaking in the Greater Hartford region, made possible by the gifts of generous individuals, families, and organizations. It has awarded grants of more than \$600 million since its founding in 1925.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Joyce Hodgson

What drew you to the HSO position? Are there exciting changes you'd like to see for the HSO?

I've worked for many non-profit organizations but my favorites were arts organizations. My first job was in the Concert Bureau of the Hartt School of Music. As Public Relations Director, it was fascinating to learn more about orchestral music, opera and musical theater, and to meet such a variety of talented musicians like Al Lepak, Rick Rozie and Steve Perry. The opportunity to bring my skills and "connections" to the HSO is both a joy and a privilege. Being a part of something so unique and so creative is a personal and professional blessing.

Broadening the audience at HSO concerts is exciting. It is a thrill to find sponsors and supporters who want to help us expose young adults, and even Baby-Boomers like myself, to their first HSO experience! Expanding our use of social media and creating unique concert experiences is our focus.

So many of the HSO staff members are musicians or passionate about music. Are you a musician and/or is music a passion in your life?

I am not a musician but come from a musical family. My parents (and grandparents) were pastors in The Salvation Army. With its rich history of brass-banding, originating with the industrial brass bands in England, I've been exposed to great music all my life. Composers like Erik Leidzen and Ray Steadman-Allen provided great opportunities for me to hear varied musical styles, along with the classical symphonic music my parents enjoyed at home.

People hear "Salvation Army" and often think of a small quartet on a street corner. But consider that Stephen Bulla, composer and arranger for the President's Own Marine Band until his recent retirement, and Philip Smith, also recently retired as the Principal Trumpet of the New York Philharmonic, are both members of The Salvation Army and were trained through their varied music programs.

I can shake a mean tambourine!

Hartford is becoming well known for its artistic flare and culture. Have you always lived here? If not, what other cities have you lived in and what did you enjoy about those locations?



Although this was home for only a few years, I graduated Bulkeley High School. I'm a great cheerleader for Hartford and all it offers. Every community has its opportunity to be a great arts center, but it takes a lot of passion, great organizations and volunteers to make it happen. In Manchester, where I've lived for 40 years, I'm involved in three arts organizations: Little Theatre of Manchester, Young@Art and Imagine Main Street.

As the child of pastors, we moved around – Akron, Asbury Park, Niagara Falls, New Haven and Hartford. These are varied communities, most experiencing the trauma of poor economies but always finding their way back, invariably through the arts or educational collaborations.

You began work in May, but tell us your impressions of the HSO and staff?

I'm very impressed that The Bushnell staff has beautifully blended the HSO into their "family" while allowing the HSO to maintain its unique brand identity. We are now fully staffed and it's "all hands on deck" for whatever needs to be done – grant writing, administration, special events, even just "manning" the information table on concert night. We all work together for the benefit of our patrons and our sponsors.



If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact Colleen Coelho. Call 860-987-6086 or email Colleen_Coelho@bushnell.org and provide your email address.