Celebrating CAROLYN'S 10TH SEASON!

HARTFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA®
Alive through great music!

2020-2021 MASTERWORKS
I am thrilled to be celebrating my 10th season with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra! YOU - our wonderful HSO community - have been such an important part of my journey here in Hartford, and I programmed this deeply personal season, with some of my most beloved and meaningful music and artists, just for you.

Carolyn Kuan, Music Director
2020-2021 Season AT-A-GLANCE

Bernstein & Copland
Season Opener!
OCTOBER 2-4, 2020

Mendelssohn's Italian
NOVEMBER 6-8, 2020

Tchaikovsky & Grieg
DECEMBER 4-6, 2020

From the New World
JANUARY 15-17, 2021

Firebird
FEBRUARY 12-14, 2021

Beethoven 7 &
Time for Three
MARCH 12-14, 2021

Strauss & Glass
APRIL 9-11, 2021

Scheherazade
MAY 7-9, 2021

Missa Solemnis
JUNE 4-6, 2021

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OCTOBER 2-4, 2020

Bernstein & Copland
Season Opener!

Copland  Lincoln Portrait
Bernstein  On the Waterfront
Symphonic Suite
Bernstein  West Side Story
Symphonic Dances
Karpman  All American

FEATURING
Carolyn Kuan  conductor

Join us for our fourth annual naturalization ceremony on Saturday, October 3 • 6:30 pm

“Becoming a U.S. citizen at the HSO’s 2017 opening weekend will forever be one of the most emotional moments of my life. Join us as we again welcome new citizens and celebrate America with Copland’s awe-inspiring Lincoln Portrait, featuring the powerful words of President Lincoln. Our program includes music from Bernstein’s passionate West Side Story, and his only original movie score, On the Waterfront, one of the greatest film scores of all time. Emmy and Grammy-winning composer Laura Karpman’s All American completes our stirring celebration of America - our country.” - CK

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2020

Mendelssohn’s Italian

Mendelssohn  Selections from A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Puts  Flute Concerto
Mendelssohn  Symphony No. 4, Op. 90, “Italian”

FEATURING
Carolyn Kuan  conductor
Adam Walker  flute

“As a child, I believed I was a troublemaking fairy before coming to this world, and I have always loved that music can be a ‘Fountain of Youth’ - instantly transporting us to a world of light, innocence and fun. Mendelssohn’s magical A Midsummer Night’s Dream is full of excitement and beauty. He wrote his Symphony No. 4 when he visited Italy for the first time as a 20-year-old, and joy and wonder burst radiantly from the very first note. I think of American composer Kevin Puts as our modern-day Mendelssohn, and I fell in love with his beautiful, lyrical melodies when I conducted the world premiere of his Flute Concerto with flute virtuoso Adam Walker. Appointed principal flute of the London Symphony Orchestra at the age of 21, Adam is simply one of the best in the world.” - CK
DECEMBER 4-6, 2020

**Tchaikovsky & Grieg**

**Tchaikovsky** *The Tempest* Fantasy-Overture

**Tchaikovsky** Act I Finale from *The Nutcracker*

**Grieg** Piano Concerto, Op. 16

**FEATURING**

Carolyn Kuan conductor

Alessio Bax piano

“I almost came to the US at age 8 to pursue a career as a ballerina. It was therefore especially meaningful that the first time I ever conducted *The Nutcracker* was at Lincoln Center for the New York City Ballet. One of Tchaikovsky’s most breathtaking musical moments symphonic audiences rarely get to hear is in Act 1; the moment when the clock strikes twelve, and the toys come alive is pure magic. Tchaikovsky’s imagination and storytelling also amaze in the fantasy-overture *The Tempest*. Based on William Shakespeare’s play, it is even more dramatic, noble and beautiful than his famous *Romeo and Juliet*. You might not realize it, but chances are you already know and love Grieg’s romantic Piano Concerto - it features one of the most famous openings in classical music.” - CK

JANUARY 15-17, 2021

**From the New World**

**Still** *Darker America*

**Price** Concerto in One Movement for Piano

**Dvořák** Symphony No. 9, Op. 95

“From the New World”

**FEATURING**

Jeri Lynne Johnson conductor

Michelle Cann piano

“As an Asian female, my journey as a conductor has been challenging, and yet, it was even more difficult for my black female colleagues. I have known Jeri Lynne Johnson since she became a fellow Taki Concordia winner in 2005. We celebrate the new year with Concerto in One Movement for Piano by Florence Price, the first African-American woman to have her music performed by a major orchestra in 1933. *Darker America* was a response to *Rhapsody in Blue* by African-American composer William Grant Still. He treats the blues to a thorough symphonic development in order to chart a triumphant course ‘representative of the American Negro.’ Dvořák’s love of spirituals can be heard in his music, especially in the *Largo* movement of his Symphony No. 9, which inspired ‘Goin Home.’” - CK
**FEBRUARY 12-14, 2021**

**Firebird**

**Bizet** Selections from *Carmen*
**He/Chen** *The Butterfly Lovers*
**Stravinsky** *The Firebird*

**FEATURING**
**Carolyn Kuan** conductor
**Sirena Huang** violin

“...There is a picture of me in college dressed as the risqué gypsy *Carmen*. I loved singing and performing the role, with her sultry melodies, surrounded by the passion and bravado of bullfighters. A Russian prince falls in love with and saves the princess with the help of *The Firebird*, and I’m excited to share the complete version of Stravinsky’s glorious and magnificent ballet with our audience. Growing up, the most famous love story was *The Butterfly Lovers*, our Chinese *Romeo and Juliet*. We are thrilled to welcome back violinist Sirena Huang to the HSO to share this 1000-year-old legend, which journeys from the joyful pentatonic youthful melodies to the final scene of two lovers turning into butterflies to be together forever.” - CK

**MARCH 12-14, 2021**

**Beethoven 7 & Time for Three**

**Beethoven** Symphony No. 7, Op. 92
**Puts** Triple Concerto
**Time for Three** Encores announced from stage

**FEATURING**
**Carolyn Kuan** conductor
**Time for Three** string trio

“...The members of Time for Three are like The Beatles of the classical world - contagious energy, incredible charisma, and brilliant music-making, while defying convention and boundaries. Not surprisingly, they inspired me to conduct in leather pants for the very first time when they were last with the HSO! Kevin Puts’ new Triple Concerto is written specially for Tf3, sparked by their joy, love of music, humanity, and connection with the audience. Praised as “the apotheosis of dance” and “Greatest. Music. Ever.”, Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 7* may actually be my favorite Beethoven symphony.” - CK

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**Saunders Fund for Innovative Programming**
Humperdinck *Hansel and Gretel* Suite
Glass *Violin Concerto No. 1*
Strauss *Der Rosenkavalier* Suite

**FEATURING**
Gerard Schwarz conductor
Leonid Sigal violin

“...to mentor is to touch a life forever. I think of guest conductor Gerard Schwarz as a musical father, and he touched my life as a musician and as a person when I worked as his Assistant Conductor at the Seattle Symphony. An impressive international conductor with over 350 recordings to his name, I was mesmerized when I saw him conduct Strauss’ *Der Rosenkavalier*. It is as if Strauss is in his blood, and I remember thinking I didn’t know music could be this exquisite. Philip Glass’ *Violin Concerto* No. 1, featuring HSO’s Leonid Sigal, was composed for Glass’ late father. It brought Glass tremendous international fame, just as *Hansel and Gretel* and *Der Rosenkavalier* brought Humperdinck and Strauss their greatest popular success.” - CK

Shankar Concerto for Sitar and Orchestra, No. 1
Rimsky-Korsakov *Scheherazade*, Op. 35

**FEATURING**
Carolyn Kuan conductor
Sitar to be announced

“...As an immigrant, I always look for opportunities to share the great diversity of the world’s music with our audience. Beatles guitarist George Harrison collaborated closely with Ravi Shankar, and called him ‘the godfather of world music.’ Shankar’s enchanting *Concerto for Sitar and Orchestra* is a perfect example of how music has the power to transport the listener to a different time and place. I have always admired strong women, like *Scheherazade* in Rimsky-Korsakov’s masterpiece. Her bravery and 1001 tales changed her life and the lives of all those around her. This music is dramatic, evocative, thrilling and wistful – qualities that speak to me in a very personal way.” - CK

**MAY 7-9, 2021**

**Scheherazade**

*The Koski Memorial Concert*
**Missa Solemnis**

Beethoven *Missa solemnis*, Op. 123

**FEATURING**
- **Adam Boyles** conductor
- **Hartford Chorale** Richard Coffey, music director
- **Vocal Soloists** to be announced

“I often think about how to make a difference and contribute to the lives of those around me. What could be better than celebrating this 10th season with the HSO by looking to the future and helping to bring someone’s dream to reality! I asked HSO’s beloved Assistant Conductor Adam Boyles what his dream pieces to conduct are, and one of his dreams is to conduct Beethoven’s *Missa solemnis*. It is always special to hear a work that is dearest to an artist. Our entire season includes music that is profoundly meaningful and special for us to share. In Adam’s words, ‘the *Missa solemnis* is Beethoven’s most public declaration of his spiritual faith.’” - CK

Masterworks concerts are performed in the Belding Theater at The Bushnell

Friday & Saturday at 8 pm
Sunday at 3 pm

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