

# Quarter Notes

## Why do orchestras use guest conductors?

In an effort to answer frequently asked questions by our patrons, we recently offered a two-part series on programming. Another common inquiry invariably sounds something like this:

*"We are so happy with Carolyn Kuan. So why do we need guest conductors?"*

We turned to Carolyn Kuan for the answer. There are several reasons, but perhaps the most surprising is that the orchestra industry expects it. The more prominent a home orchestra, the more its music director makes guest appearances with other orchestras. Why? In a word, *prestige*.

As a conductor advances in her career, guest conducting is expected – and necessary. When a music director is invited to appear as a guest conductor, the status of her home symphony is elevated. Conversely, the higher the level of the home orchestra, the more the conductor is in demand as a guest conductor. As HSO's Music Director, Carolyn has always been committed to being an integral part of our community, and spends significantly more time with our symphony family than most music directors. The challenge, Carolyn explained, is finding the right balance between what is "expected" of a prominent conductor, and what is best for her home orchestra.

Carolyn's explanation posed another question: why has this become the industry standard? For that answer, we look to the needs of musicians, all gifted artists. They strive to be challenged, to be pushed, and desire new and broadening experiences. Like all artists, musicians want to step beyond what is "comfortable" – and being challenged by a new conductor is one way of stepping outside of the familiar comfort zone. Similarly, conductors crave the opportunity to work with a broad variety of musicians and orchestras.

Carolyn smiled as she detailed the process: "It's like dating. Sometimes you have a great first date, and if it works, you want to have a second date. There must be good chemistry for the major orchestras to build long-term relationships with guest conductors."



At its best, the experience is exceptional for all - the musicians, the conductor *and* the audience:

*"Let's face it, guest conducting has all the benefits of being a grandparent without the responsibility of being the parent! Just think about the similarities. Your job is to spoil them a little, explore new and different worlds, and add just the right amount of discipline and send them home worn out but happy."*

**Frank Lestina, June 6, 2014**

<http://www.ilasta.com/article/the-role-of-the-guest-conductor/>

And there is a third reason: the home orchestra reaps the rewards when its music director develops relationships with multiple guest artists and has the opportunity to experiment with exciting new music. The benefits to the Hartford Symphony are abundant: Carolyn conducted the Toronto Symphony in the Canadian premier of *Alternate Energy*, a composition by Mason Bates using car parts. Recognizing the appeal of the music, Carolyn brought the piece to us. HSO audiences will remember the lobby display of car parts when the HSO performed the composition in June of 2014. In 2013, Carolyn conducted the Seattle Symphony in the U.S. premier of Kanno's *Revive, Concerto for Koto and Shakuhachi*. HSO's opening

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## Why do orchestras use guest conductors? *(continued from page 1)*

Masterworks of the 2017-18 season included the U.S. east coast premiere of the same piece.

While conducting at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, Carolyn was introduced to *Rose of the Winds* by Osvaldo Golijov. The widely acclaimed HSO performance of the piece in June of 2016 featured the same guest artists performing on Galician bagpipe, kamancheh, accordion and klezmer clarinet. In music, as in life, successes are built on the strength of personal relationships. Working as a guest conductor allows a music director to build those relationships.

We are very proud that Carolyn is in high demand as a symphonic and opera conductor. This past summer, Carolyn conducted the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in the U.S. premier of *The Trial*, a Philip Glass opera. In the summer of 2014, she conducted the U.S. premier of another opera, *Dr. Sun Yat Sen*, at the prestigious Sante Fe Opera Festival. In 2012, Carolyn conducted The Hague Orchestra in the Netherlands in a multi-media project inspired by

the works of a National Geographic nature photographer and the music of Philip Glass. She conducted at the Concertgebouw in a special performance attended by the Queen of The Netherlands. The project was shared with our Hartford audiences with great enthusiasm. The recording of the project with The Hague Orchestra, "The Life and Journey Through Time," was just released in the summer of 2017.

During her time as Music Director of the Hartford Symphony, Carolyn has also been a guest conductor with the Toronto Symphony (twice), the West Australia Symphony, the Santa Barbara Symphony, the Omaha Symphony, Symphony Boca Raton, the Seattle Symphony, the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, the Detroit Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, and the San Francisco Symphony, among many others.

In the summer of 2015, HSO donors traveled to The Glimmerglass Opera Festival for a special treat: lunch with Carolyn, and to watch her conduct a wonderful new production of Mozart's

*The Magic Flute*. As our Music Director's horizons expand, so do ours: we are now exploring a summer 2018 trip to Portland, Oregon for HSO donors to watch Carolyn conduct Rossini's *Cenerentola*.

We happily boast of Carolyn's achievements. Her numerous success in conducting brings prestige and prominence to the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, and in turn, exposes each of us to music we might never have the opportunity to experience. It's the perfect win-win. ■

**Do you have a general question you'd like us to answer?**

**Please submit questions to Ruth Sovronsky, HSO's Development Director: [rsovronsky@hartfordsymphony.org](mailto:rsovronsky@hartfordsymphony.org).**

**If your question has broad appeal, you may find it featured in a *Quarter Notes* article!**

## HSO + Goodwin College + Trinity College = a new collaboration



*Masterworks Guest Artist, Kojiro Umezaki discussing the concert with Hall Hosts.*

Last season, HSO's "Hall Host" program helped build pathways for new audiences. Our team of specially selected volunteers, a deliberately diverse group designed to challenge "symphony-stereotypes," is a mixture of symphony "newbies" and long-time patrons. Throughout the season, our Hosts chatted with audience members in the lobby and in the hall, helping

the symphony to better understand the needs and interests of our patrons. The program introduced new and younger volunteers to the world of symphonic music, and we also learned more about our audiences through the interactions between Host and patron.

With HSO staff, the Host team met through the year, incorporating what we learned to create more positive experiences for volunteers and patrons. Our experiment was successful, establishing a framework to expand and collaborate with two local institutions of higher learning: Goodwin College and Trinity College.

This season, students from each school will be part of the Host team, giving them the opportunity to broaden their horizons or step outside

of a known comfort zone. As the new season begins, we encourage audience members to interact with our student Hosts, who proudly represent their respective colleges. Ask them questions; no doubt they will be doing the same. Extending a warm welcome to symphony newcomers develops future audiences. Music is the bridge – helping us build a meaningful and cohesive community. ■



*Carolyn Kuan welcomes the Hall Hosts to a Masterworks rehearsal.*

# HSO Interns: Cultivating The Next Generation of Arts Management

Internship is an important part of the learning process for many high school and college students. This past year the HSO worked with a team of smart, talented and devoted young adults from a wide variety of colleges and universities. Their HSO internship brought them in direct contact with staff, musicians, patrons and donors, as they expanded their skills. In turn, the HSO reaps many benefits: our interns make an enormous difference as integral members of the HSO team. One of our 2015-16 interns, **Erica Trenholm**, a post-grad student, created all of the designs for our event invitations and benefit cards. In 2017, as a professional, she is again assisting the HSO with graphic design.

We salute and thank our 2016-17 interns, recognizing their colleges and internship assignment:

**Hope Aubrey** - The Hartt School (Development)

**Noah Kayser-Hirsh** - Vassar College (Education & Community Engagement)

**Cas Martin** - Smith College (Education & Community Engagement)

**Kevin Lempke** - Westfield University (Marketing & Public Relations)

**Maggie Kinabrew** - Oberlin (Artistic Operations)

We are delighted to share feedback from Cas, Noah and Hope:

**Cas Martin**, a music major at Smith College: *"I can't speak highly enough of my experience at the HSO. For ten amazing weeks, I worked full-time in the HSO offices as an Education & Community Engagement Intern. I experienced firsthand what it's like to work in a Symphony Orchestra, from the joy of running an Instrument Petting Zoo to the excitement of working at the Talcott Mountain Music Festival. I've grown so much both personally and professionally this summer, and I can't wait to apply what I've learned as I finish out my degree and pursue a career in the arts. I can't thank the HSO staff enough for this incredible opportunity!"*

**Noah Kayser-Hirsh**, a music major at Vassar College: *"Interning with the HSO was one of the most genuinely enjoyable parts of this past summer. Not only did I get to experience how the administrative office of a professional orchestra functions, but I also got to do hands-on work at the Talcott Mountain Music Festival. Working on the administrative side of the HSO's education programs as well as interacting with those the HSO educates was a truly invaluable experience."*

**Hope Aubrey**, a senior Music Management and Clarinet Performance double major at the Hartt School of Music: *"Although initially unsure how I would fit in with*



Cas Martin and Noah Kayser-Hirsh.

*the day-to-day tasks and flow of the office, I was pleasantly surprised. I interacted with HSO patrons, donors, and volunteers at Talcott Mountain Music Festival. I learned about myself, how I fit into the nonprofit sector, and the importance of development in a major symphony orchestra. One of my biggest projects was researching future grant opportunities, helping me realize the complexity. Learning from HSO staff and my varied tasks, I refined skills I will need in the near future. This internship was part of my major course of study and I thoroughly enjoyed my summer with the HSO. The HSO family accepted me and the other interns as their own. As I graduate next fall I hope to find an arts administration position in the nonprofit sector."*

These statements sum up HSO's goals for all of our interns: a shared experience of learning, unique opportunities and professional growth. HSO interns are not incidental; they are key additions to staff who enhance our ability to bring great music to the community. ■



Hope Aubrey, Maggie Kinabrew, and Cas Martin.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# How a Donor Helped Launch a New Contemporary Series - HSO: INTERMIX

Last season, in our ongoing journey of experimentation and innovation, the HSO's artistic collaboration with Real Art Ways created a new contemporary social experience: HSO: INTERMIX. This series blended HSO musicians in small ensembles with the majesty of art installations at Real Art Ways. The result? *Scribing the Void* (January 27, 2017) and *Lies You Can Believe In* (April 27, 2017) were **both sold-out successes**. What made all the difference? One donor – a sponsor – also committed to innovation. Webster Bank, last season's sponsor, had the foresight to partner with us on this extraordinary new adventure, and we are all so grateful they did.

The two concerts, while vastly different in concept, sound and scope, had one thing in common: the audience was invited to experience music in a non-traditional social atmosphere, up-close and personal. With light hors d'oeuvres courtesy of Billings Forge and a cash bar, guests were encouraged to meander through the art galleries, sip wine, snack and contemplate the art installations, or gather alongside HSO ensembles to hear short chamber works – some new and exciting, others familiar and tender. The audience was invited to encircle the musicians, who were strategically positioned in the center of the galleries, allowing for a more intimate experience. Each piece and

movement was preceded by an explanation from Maestra Kuan, the composer, the artist and/or a dialogue with the musicians whose solos were featured.

As a donor, do not ever doubt that you are making a difference: in fact, you make ALL the difference. No matter the size of the gift, the impact is cumulative. Everything we achieve is because of YOU.

Success builds on success. Last year's experiment is the brand new HSO: INTERMIX, expanded to three Thursday nights in three exciting venues:

*Dark Wood*, November 16, 2017  
Hog River Brewing Company in Hartford

*Alleged Dances*, February 22, 2018  
Onyx Spirits Company in East Hartford

*The Twittering Machine*, March 29, 2018  
Real Art Ways in Hartford

All concerts begin at 7 p.m. We hope you'll join the fun, celebrating the power of what we can achieve with your help. Two things are certain: each performance will be unique and an experience not to be missed. ■

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# Our HSO Host Families Build a Home

Last season, answering the call to welcome HSO musicians who travel from other states to perform with us, 35 generous families opened their homes and their hearts, creating HSO's first-ever Musician Hosting Program.

Now, less than 12 months later, our inaugural group of host families house 25 out-of-state musicians who regularly perform with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra as rostered or substitute players. Host families are building a stronger Symphony to the benefit of all, and the musicians they welcome respond with joy. That joy is infectious, spreading to other musicians throughout the orchestra.

The resulting performances are uplifting, inspired and emotional.

The heart-warming stories of unexpected rewards and special bonds with the musicians have prompted new families to step forward. When one of our hosts sustained a fall this past spring, the musicians she routinely hosts gave her the gift of a private concert. Our host shared her positive experience:

*"I was just blown away! Daphne [Gooch] and Aekyung [Kim] recruited Charlotte [Malin] and gave me my very own chamber music performance of a piece for three violas on Sunday*

*afternoon! It was just beautiful! My son Russ was here for Mother's Day and enjoyed it with me! These are thoughtful and talented young ladies!"*

During a late-winter hosting stay at Seabury Community, HSO's Principal Trumpet Scott McIntosh spontaneously arranged to perform a recital for the residents of the skilled nursing facility. Scott, observing the limited-mobility patients who cannot attend concerts at The Bushnell, gave them the gift of music with a solo trumpet performance. The delight on the faces of the residents said it all.

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Photos by Ruth Sovronsky



## LOVE THE MUSIC? HOST A MUSICIAN!

We are happy to answer questions about the minimal commitment required of a host. If you have a spare bedroom, a spare bathroom and an open heart, you'd be a perfect candidate!

Please contact Ruth Sovronsky, Director of Development, at 860-760-7321 or [rsovrnsky@hartfordsymphony.org](mailto:rsovrnsky@hartfordsymphony.org) for details.

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In conversations with musicians over breakfast or dinner, hosts learn more about their shared love of music and find new friends, building lifelong relationships. It is a rewarding experience for all.

The inaugural pilot of HSO's hosting program is an astounding success. Auditions this fall will bring four new musicians into the HSO, and we turn to you, our donors, who can make all the difference. We are looking

for new host families in the 2017-18 season and hope that you will say "YES." The rewards of hosting are bountiful: ***when you open your heart to give, you open a pathway to receive.*** ■

# The Hands of the HSO: A New Exhibit

During the 2015-16 season, the HSO began a new collaboration with Hartford artist, Sarah Paolucci, as she prepared for a solo exhibit at ArtWalk, the gallery at the Hartford Public Library, depicting the hands of working artists. Multiple photo sessions at HSO rehearsals resulted in beautiful paintings, all featuring the hands of the musicians of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra: playing drums, cello, violins, tuba, French horn, a double bass, and more.

To the delight of our patrons, Sarah's paintings and studies were featured in a special exhibit in the halls of The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts during the

opening Masterworks weekend of our 2016-2017 season. We are so pleased to learn that Sarah's paintings of HSO musicians will be the exclusive feature of a new exhibition at Five Points Gallery in Torrington: "The Hands of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra."

This exhibit runs October 26 through December 2, 2017. An opening reception will take place on October 27th from 6 to 8:30pm, and an artist talk will be featured on November 17th at 6pm. We plan to attend the opening reception and hope to see many of you there with us! For a glimpse of Sarah's work, please visit [www.SarahTheArtist.com](http://www.SarahTheArtist.com). ■



Bassist Rick Rozie



Cellist Carole Olefsky

## A GREAT PARTNER

### Honoring Lincoln Financial, HSO's partner in music education

We proudly announce that Americans for the Arts are recognizing a key HSO partner, Lincoln Financial Group and Lincoln Financial Foundation. Lincoln's generosity makes it possible for the HSO to bring our Carnegie Hall-partnered *Link Up* program to more than 2,500 students from Hartford Public Schools. Lincoln Financial Program Officer Marlene Ferreira, based in Hartford, works closely with the HSO Development team to ensure our ability to offer this critical yearlong program to the participating Hartford Public Schools.

In addition, as an annual sponsor of HSO's *Bravo!* Gala, which raises funds for music education, Lincoln Financial helps ensure HSO's commitment to community engagement and

education programming. Participating schools are 73% Title I, and of the nearly 14,000 students touched by HSO's total education programming, 68% qualify for free or reduced in-school meal programs. Our programs reach those who are most in need.

Each year, Americans for the Arts, through its Business Committee for the Arts (BCA) program, recognizes 10 businesses of all sizes for exceptional involvement in arts, enriching the workplace, schools, and serving as role models for the community. The companies honored set the standard for excellence and serve as role models for others to follow. The honorees are celebrated each fall at the *BCA 10: Best Businesses Partnering with the Arts in America* gala in New York City.

The words of Nancy Rogers, SVP, Corporate Social Responsibility and President of the Lincoln Financial Foundation, ring equally true for the HSO: "We are transforming lives, building strong communities and providing young minds with a springboard to academic achievement. This award represents an opportunity for all of us to highlight the important role of the arts in shaping our children and communities."

We salute Lincoln Financial Group, Lincoln Financial Foundation and Marlene Ferreira for this laudable achievement. From the HSO – and the children of the Hartford Public Schools – we thank you for your generosity and continued support. You make the magic possible. ■

# 75 FOR 75

## Building a strong legacy for HSO's future

In the 2018-19 season, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra celebrates an important milestone: our 75th season. Preparing for our diamond anniversary makes us think about our past – and our future – and the legacy all of us will leave for the next generation of music lovers. It's a great opportunity to strengthen the Encore Society, a group of donors who include the HSO in their estate plans.

**Why?** The Encore Society is the perfect way to be included in HSO's growth and innovation for years to come. To

honor our 75th anniversary, our goal is to add 75 new legacy donors. This 75th anniversary group will receive special recognition. Membership in the Encore Society already includes various benefits, such as invitations to receptions and events.

**How?** You may have already named the HSO as a beneficiary of a retirement account, a life insurance policy, or another asset. Or, you may have named the HSO in your will. Simply letting us know of your plans will qualify you as one of the 75 for 75.

**The impact?** Your gift ensures music will continue for future generations, and is an opportunity to advance the values most important in your life. Haven't thought about it yet? We would be happy to chat and share the many ways your support can build a bright future for the HSO.

For more information, please contact Ruth Sovronsky, Development Director, at 860-760-7321, or [rsovrnsky@hartfordsymphony.org](mailto:rsovrnsky@hartfordsymphony.org). ■

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## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** Do I have to choose a gift amount now?

**A:** No – the most popular choice is stating a gift as a percentage, which will automatically adjust no matter what the future may bring.

**Q:** How can I provide for my family AND support causes important in my life?

**A:** Many people use a percentage – 10 or 20% for example – for their favorite charity, while still leaving the majority of their assets to family and friends. Or, you can make a gift of whatever balance remains in a retirement account, which is also a considerable tax savings.

**Q:** But how do I put my spouse/partner first in line?

**A:** Your gift can be made only after you know your spouse/partner won't need those assets.



### Did You Know?

As a donor to the HSO Annual Fund, you receive benefits you may not even realize! If you are a donor, we protect your seats during the subscription renewal period. This ensures that if you're out of town or unable to renew, we will always reach out to you personally to make sure you don't lose your seats!

## SPOTLIGHT ON

# Barbara Hill – HSO's Principal French Horn

Nearly 11 years ago, Barbara Hill joined the Hartford Symphony. She won the position of Principal Horn in 2008 and was elected as Co-Chair of the HSO's Orchestra Committee in 2016. Beyond Barbara's exceptional skills as a musician (she was a semi-finalist for New York's Philharmonic Orchestra), she is devoted to her family, her fellow musicians and her community. Barbara is always the first to say "YES" to join donors at our "First Rehearsal and Nosh" events.

### **QN: Did you always want to be a musician?**

This may be a surprise, but no! Although I began playing piano at age 4 and studied for 15 years, I knew I would not be a serious pianist. My plan was to be a pediatrician. At age 13, I announced my career choice and went on to take the science and math classes in high school that I needed to pursue medicine. I continued that career path when I started college.

### **QN: What changed?**

In 7th grade, I started learning French horn and enjoyed playing in youth orchestras. In the summer of my senior year of high school, I went on a youth orchestra tour to Aberdeen, Scotland. Performing Sibelius' Second Symphony made me fall in love with the French horn and orchestra. I made wonderful friends – and it was a life-altering experience. My friends from that trip became my friends in college – and that's how I met my husband Jason. My best friends were music students, and by January of my freshman year in college I knew I was headed to music. I auditioned on French horn, was accepted into the music program and switched my career path in my sophomore year.



*Photo by Ruth Sovronsky*

### **QN: Maybe we're wrong, but that seems like a really late start!**

It is! It took a lot of effort to catch up. After college, I wanted to do my Masters at Rice University in Texas, but I was not accepted. I was still pretty naive about what it took to get accepted to a Masters program in conservatory, but I learned how to prepare. I was then accepted into Juilliard, the Mannes School of Music, the Manhattan School of Music and McGill (in Montreal.) I chose Juilliard!

### **QN: What can you tell us about your very musical family?**

My husband Jason (a trombone player) teaches elementary and middle school music. When I was at Juilliard, we lived on Long Island and Jason got a wonderful teaching job with the North Shore School District. He's been there 19 years and loves his work. It does create some commuting challenges, as he lives in New York for work, while I live in West Hartford with our four children.

### **QN: We hear lots of great stories about your children – please tell us more!**

Matthew (15) is a serious violin student who really wants to become a professional violinist. Christopher (13) plays cello and he had a blast studying at the International Cello Institute at St. Olaf's College in Minnesota this summer. Jack (age 10 and a half) is a sponge: he plays viola, percussion and even composes. Our youngest, Ellen (8) plays violin, is very self-assured and had a wonderful summer at theater camp.

### **QN: Where did you grow up?**

I was born in Toronto and grew up in Guelph, Ontario. My husband and I – and our oldest son – are Canadian citizens. Our other three children are U.S. Citizens. A drive to visit family in Canada prompts some interesting conversations with the border guards!

### **QN: What do you enjoy most about music?**

I love having so many opportunities to play: musical theater, the orchestra, chamber music, solo performance – and of course, teaching. I have 12 students, and teaching makes me more aware of how I relate to others, and how important it is to keep music alive. The richness and diversity of music is always exciting: I love Mahler, Beethoven and Stravinsky. I also love the music of Coldplay and U2.

### **QN: Besides music, what do you consider fun?**

As a family, we love biking and hiking – and for myself, I enjoy knitting and Bikram Yoga!

### **QN: Tell us how you would spend a snow day.**

Easy: family sledding, hot chocolate and freshly baked chocolate chip cookies – then snuggling indoors for a movie. ■

