



Photo credit: Bob Plotkin

Tong Chen, conductor

“Masterfully presented the Mendelssohn’s Fifth Symphony,” described the Leipzig Time. A prizewinner of the prestigious International Malko Conducting Competition, Tong Chen has quickly established herself as one of the most promising and exciting young conductors in her generation.

Ms. Chen has worked with numerous orchestras across the globe, including Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo, Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Mikkelin Kaupunginorkesteri, Besançon Symphony Orchestra, Leipzig Symphony Orchestra, Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Richmond Symphony, Aspen Music Festival Orchestra, Manhattan School of Music Orchestra, Orchestra St. Luke’s, Peabody Symphony Orchestra, Xia Men Philharmonic, Qing Dao Symphony Orchestra, Guang Zhou Symphony Orchestra, and Shanghai Opera House, where she worked as the assistant conductor.

2019-2020 season’s highlight includes Tong’s debuts with New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Philharmonic, and Rutgers Symphony Orchestra; a return to Los Angeles Philharmonic working with Gustavo Dudamel and assisting Iván Fisher with Budapest Festival Orchestra at the Hollywood Bowl. This season marks her fifth anniversary as music director of Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra.

As an avid advocate of education, Chen taught orchestral conducting and led the orchestra program at Copland School of Music from 2012-2018. Summer 2019 marked her second years as the director of Queens College Conductor’s workshop, founded by Maurice Peress in 2010. Additionally, Tong is a regular guest conductor at Manhattan School of Music, Montclair State University, Manners Pre-college orchestra, and All-State Youth Orchestras in New York State area, as well as a guest lecturer at Shanghai Conservatory of Music.

Ms. Chen was chosen by Kurt Masur to receive the Mendelssohn Scholarship in 2012. She has participated in the conducting program the Aspen Music Festival and Cabrillo Festival, studying with David Zinman and Marin Alsop. Her primary studies were with Gustav Meier at Peabody Conservatory, where he received master’s degrees in conducting, with Maurice Peress at Copland School of Music and Shanghai Conservatory.

In 2015, Ms. Chen made her Lincoln Center debut at David H. Koch Theater with the Paul Taylor Dance Company and Orchestra of St. Luke’s.