



JUDITH YAN CONDUCTOR



Judith Yan is a Canadian conductor, born in Hong Kong. Equally adept at conducting opera, ballet, and symphony, her career has taken her internationally, conducting for major companies in Europe, Asia, and North America. She has held Staff Conductor positions at the **San Francisco Opera**, the **Canadian Opera Company**, and the **National Ballet of Canada**, and is currently the Artistic Director of **Guelph Symphony Orchestra** and Music Director and Principal Conductor of **Opera on the Avalon**.

As Artistic Director of Guelph Symphony Orchestra since 2011, she expanded the orchestra's symphonic and operatic repertoire with works by composers Richard Strauss, Igor Stravinsky, Philip Glass, Francis Poulenc, Leonard Bernstein, added operatic repertoire by composers Puccini, Rossini, Verdi, and Strauss, Humperdinck, and created the unique **Triple-Feature "Ballet, Opera, and Symphony"** Gala.

With the **San Francisco Opera**, she served as Staff Conductor, assistant to Maestro Donald Runnicles. While with SFO, her performances of Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* for San Francisco Opera (Merola) was included in the San Francisco Chronicle's Top Ten Classical Performances of the Year. Prior to San Francisco Opera, she served as the first Conductor-in-Residence of the **Canadian Opera Company**, where her performance of Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* garnered critical acclaim. She made her German conducting debut at **Ulmer Oper** with Rossini's *La Cenerentola* and Mozart's *Idomeneo*, and her Italian debut in 2007 in Sulmona with Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. She returned the following season to conduct Puccini's *La bohème*. As the Principal Conductor of OOTA, she has lead numerous productions including *La bohème*, *Tosca*, *Suor Angelica*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *La traviata*, *Albert Herring*, and *Dead Man Walking*.

As a conductor of ballet, she has conducted over 90 performances at the Four Season's Centre for the **National Ballet of Canada**, working with the world's foremost choreographers including John Neumeier, Ronald Hynd, and James Kudelka. With NBoC and as a guest internationally, she has conducted the ballets of Balanchine, Cranko, Kiliàn, Lander, Stowell, Wright, and Grigorovich. Since 2010, she has had a close association with **Hong Kong Ballet**, conducting the company's production of *Swan Lake* as well as premiering all four of the company's most recent productions of *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Nutcracker*, *Le Corsaire*, and *Don Quixote*. In 2014, she made her Seoul conducting debut with **Korean National Ballet's** *La Bayadère* (Grigorovich), returning in 2015 to conduct *Giselle* and *Swan Lake*.

Recent performances include 2 world-premieres: Jack Perla's *An American Dream* for **Seattle Opera** and John Estacio's *Ours* for **Opera on the Avalon**, debuts with **National Arts Centre Orchestra** in Ottawa for Cynthia Harvey's *Sleeping Beauty*, **Teatr Wielki** in Warsaw for Cranko's *The Taming of the Shrew*, and **West Australian Ballet** for Lucette Aldous's *Don Quixote*, Anna-Marie Holme's *Le Corsaire* for **Hong Kong Ballet**, Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and Verdi's *Requiem* with **Guelph Symphony Orchestra**, Patrice Bart's *Giselle* and Yury Grigorovich's *La Bayadère* for **Korean National Ballet**.

2018/19 season includes debuts with **Vancouver Opera** with *La Bohème* and **Edmonton Opera** with *La Traviata*, the season-opening gala concert for the **Elora Festival**, a revival of the opera *Ours* at **Opera on the Avalon**, Dvorak's Symphony No. 8 and Beethoven's *Mass in C* with **Guelph Symphony Orchestra**, productions of Greg Horsman's *La Bayadère* and the world-première of Krzysztof Pastor's *Dracula* for **West Australian Ballet** (with **West Australian Symphony Orchestra**), and a return to **Korean National Ballet** (with **Korean Symphony**) for Yury Grigorovich's *Swan Lake*.

Judith is fluent in English and Cantonese. She was a student of the late Maestro Pierre Héту.

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