

## Apo Hsu Official bio

"She generates electricity from the podium in two directions: into the orchestra and into the audience."

### The Oregonian

Maestra Hsu began her tenure as the Orchestra Director at the National Taiwan Normal University in 2003. In the summers of 2000-2016, Ms. Hsu served as a guest faculty member at The Conductor's Institute at Bard College in New York.

Maestra Hsu studied at the Hartt School of Music, University of Hartford for her Artist Diploma in Conducting and Master of Music in Double bass. As well as attended several prestigious conducting programs, the Conductors Institute in South Carolina, the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado and the Pierre Monteux Domaine School for Advanced Conductors in Maine. Her main conducting teachers include the late Maestro Charles Bruck, Maestro Murry Sidlin and Maestro Harold Farberman.

Maestra Hsu has previously served as the Music Director and Conductor of the Springfield Symphony in Missouri (1995-2003), Artistic Director of The Women's Philharmonic in San Francisco (1997-2001) and Music Director and Conductor of the Oregon Mozart Players in Eugene, Oregon (1991-1997) after completing a three-year tenure as Affiliate Artist/NEA Assistant Conductor of the Oregon Symphony (1991-1994).

In September 2001, "Avon Women in Concert" presented Maestra Hsu on tour in Brazil with The Women's Philharmonic performing an all bossa nova program featuring the works of the Brazilian poet, Vinícius de Moraes. In spring of 2000, producer Debbie Allen included Maestra Hsu with The Women's Philharmonic in a series entitled "Cool Women," which was broadcast on US cable television through the 2000-2001 season. Maestra Hsu and The Women's Philharmonic recorded a CD featuring the symphonic music of African American composer Florence Price, released on the Koch International Classics label in spring of 2001.

Guest appearances have taken Maestra Hsu to many parts of the US as well as Russia, Asia, South America and Australia. In a performance with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, she captivated students in an interactive Youth Education Series. Maestra Hsu has also collaborated with various Symphony Orchestras in Taiwan. Other guest appearances have included several performances for youth with the Saint Louis Symphony, a summer concert with the Minnesota Orchestra and two appearances with the San Francisco Symphony. In addition, with the Interlochen Music Festival, Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute, the Symphonies of: Southwest Florida, Kalamazoo, Detroit, Eugene, Elgin, Mobile, Harrisburg, Wheeling, West Shore, Lubbock, Wichita, Green Bay, Stockton and Oregon, three appearances with the Hartford Symphony, the Colorado Music Festival; the Missouri and Reno Chamber Orchestras, and a two-week residency in Irkutsk, Russia.

During 2003 season, Maestra Hsu collaborated with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra. The fall of 2004 marked Maestra Hsu's debut with the Kaohsiung City Symphony Orchestra in Taiwan as well as the Sung Nam and Prime Philharmonic Orchestras in Seoul, Korea. Maestra Hsu returned to guest conduct the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra in spring 2005 and returned to guest conduct the KBS (Korean Broadcasting System) Symphony Orchestra in November 2005. Maestra Hsu has guest

conducted and led the Taiwan Wind Ensemble, the Tao Yuan Symphonic Band and the Taoyuan-citizen Union Band, all esteemed professional symphonic bands in Taiwan, with diverse and interactive programs.

Maestra Hsu led the National Taiwan Normal University Symphony Orchestra (NTNUSO) for the University's 60th Anniversary Celebration, on a weeklong, three-city, Australian cultural exchange tour in May 2006. With the NTNUSO and the Festival Chorus, they embarked a California tour titled "Formosa Dreaming" in September 2007. In September 2013 she led the NTNUSO and female choir for a Japan tour in Concert at the Beethoven Hall, Musashino Academia Musicae in Tokyo. Maestra Hsu was invited to guest conduct the Sydney Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra in 2007 and returned again in August 2009. She returned to the Kaohsiung City Symphony Orchestra in 2007, as well as guest conducting the China National Symphony Orchestra in the opening concert to the "2008 Beijing International Congress on Women in Music" at the new China National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing. Presented by the International Alliance for Women in Music (IAWM) and the China Conservatory of Music (CCM), Congress held in April 2008. In March 2009, she appeared with the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra in Iowa on their Masterworks Series. In September 2009, Maestra Hsu returned to lead the Springfield Symphony Orchestra in Missouri for their 75th anniversary season gala opening concert. In October 2010, Maestra Hsu guest conducted the Lamont Symphony Orchestra in Denver with an US premier of two pieces by Taiwanese composer Hsu Tsang-Houei's *Deux Mouvements pour orchestre a cordes*, Op. 26 and *Nu-guan-zi* after *The Poetic-tune of Wei Zhuang*, Op. 14. In December 2011, Maestra Hsu was an exchange faculty member at the NTNU newly established sister school UC Irvine, where she led the orchestra in a concert at the Samueli Theatre, Orange County Performing Arts Center, in Costa Mesa, California. In January 2012 Maestra Hsu held a residency at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, culminating to a concert at the CCM Corbett Auditorium on Jan. 27th, with the innovative work by the award-winning composer John Corigliano, the *Pied Piper Fantasy*. In July 2012, Maestra Hsu returned to Brazil guest conducting the Barra Mansa Symphony Orchestra. In the Fall of 2013, Maestra Hsu joined the OSBM again in the Classical Brazil's project, "Brazil Classical 2013 season Orchestral Tour Brazil and Simone Leitao", featuring pianist Simone Leitao. A documentary was made with the filmmaker Katia Lund and broadcast in spring of 2014 for this project. In March 2014, Maestra Hsu was invited to guest conduct the Philippines Philharmonic Orchestra in Manila; in February Maestra Hsu was invited to guest conduct The 192th Regular Concert of Seoul Philharmonic, in Seoul, Korea. In July 2015, Maestra Hsu returned to join the Barra Mansa Symphony Orchestra in a set of celebration concerts for their 10th anniversary season. In recent seasons Maestra Hsu guest conducted the Guayang Symphony Orchestra in China, and return again to lead the Taipei City Symphony Orchestra, as well as appearances with the Singapore Wind Symphony and Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra in Singapore.

Maestra Hsu has served on the faculty for the American Symphony Orchestra League Conducting Workshops, National Youth Orchestra Festival 2000, the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute 2002 and 2004, the 2007 All State Orchestra in New Mexico and the 2009 All State Orchestra in Colorado. She has been a Music Review Panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, and Meet The Composers in New York City. She has served as an Evaluation Committee member at the CKS Center in Taipei and various music panels. In April 2015, 2017 and 2019, Maestra Hsu served on the Singapore Youth Festival as an adjudicator. In July 2017, Maestra Hsu served on the one-week National Chinese Orchestra Taiwan conducting workshop faculty. In recent years, Maestra Hsu's graduate conducting studio at NTNU has nurtured several award winning reputable young conductors now active in North America, Europe and Asia, holding positions as associate conductor

with Richmond Symphony Orchestra and assistant conductor with Boston Symphony Orchestra. Maestro Hsu has collaborated with soloists including: Gary Karr (double bassist), Peter Lloyd (double bassist), Tien-Hsin Cindy Wu (violinist), Brian Lewis (violinist), Shan Yew (violinist), Pi-hsien Chen (pianist), Hung-Kuan Chen (pianist), Angela Cheng (pianist), Joanne Polk (pianist), Angela Hewitt (pianist), Gloria Cheng (pianist), Andre Watts (pianist), Albert Tiu (pianist), Sarah Chang (violinist), Nai-Yuan Hu (violinist), Zuill Bailey (cellist), Steven Isserlis (cellist), David Finckel (cellist), Wu Han (pianist), Albert Tiu (pianist), Gil Shaham (violinist), Cho-Liang Lin (violinist), Frank Brakkee (violinist), Tony Bennett (singer), Judy Collins (singer), etc.

2017-2018 Maestra Hsu returned to guest conduct the Guiyang Symphony Orchestra in China, the Taipei City Symphony, debut with the prestigious Wings of The Angel Symphonic Band in Taipei, and the UCLA Philharmonia. In Singapore with the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Symphony Orchestra and the Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra, both in presenting concerts and conducting master classes; and in 2019 returning to the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music to conduct the annual Chinese New Year concert.