

**JOHN KENNEDY****Resident Conductor and Director of Orchestral Activities**

John Kennedy has led acclaimed performances and premieres worldwide of opera, orchestral, ballet, and new music. Kennedy has had a long association with Spoleto Festival USA, and in recent seasons has conducted the Festival's American premiere productions of operas including *Émilie* by Kaija Saariaho (2011), *Kepler* by Philip Glass (2012), *Matsukaze* by Toshio Hosokawa (2013), *Facing Goya* by Michael Nyman (2014), the world premiere production of Huang Ruo's *Paradise Interrupted* (2015), *The Little Match Girl* by Helmut Lachenmann (2016), *Quartett* by Luca Francesconi (2017) and *Tree of Codes* by Liza Lim (2018). Kennedy also auditions and selects each member of the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra through an audition tour in cities through the United States. In 2020, Kennedy conducts the world premiere of *Omar*.

Especially noted for his interpretations of contemporary music, Kennedy has worked with many of the leading composers of our time in over 300 premieres and numerous recordings. He has designed and led many orchestral concerts integrating classic works with the new, and recently led a multimedia production of Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* directed by Seon Yim in South Korea. Kennedy has recently guest conducted at West Edge Opera, Daejeon Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra 21, Singapore International Festival of the Arts, the Crested Butte Music Festival, and with many organizations including the Lincoln Center Festival, Other Minds Festival, sfSound, Talea Ensemble, Santa Fe Opera, and New York City Ballet. Kennedy is the composer of more than 90 works, including opera, orchestral, chamber, and experimental works that have been performed throughout the world. In 2018, Kennedy's operas *Trinity* and *The Language of Birds* both received new productions. His book *The Musical Offering: Why the Musical Calling Matters* is forthcoming from the University of California Press.