

The SYMPHONIA | Boca Raton has two rising stars on its February performance podium.

This Sunday's Connoisseur Concert Series performance will feature celebrated conductor, Carolyn Kuan. Kuan is known for exploring new and uncharted boundaries of classical music. Featured piano soloist is Alexandre Moutouzkine, a Russian-born child prodigy who won the St. Petersburg International Piano Competition at age 14. He emigrated to the U.S. at age 19, and has since travelled the world and won countless awards.

The program, labeled "From Paris to Prague," features works by American composer Aaron Copland (Music for the Theatre); French composers Francis Poulenc (Aubade, Concerto Choreographique) and Gabriel Faure (Ballad for Piano and Orchestra, op 19), and crowd favorite, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Symphony No. 38 "Prague").

Kuan was born in Taiwan and began playing piano at age 5. She left her family behind to come to America and attended high school here. She could barely speak English when she arrived, but she was a quick study; good enough to enter and graduate from Smith College. She earned her Master of Music diploma from the University of Illinois.

Kuan conducted the Chinese New Year concerts for the San Francisco Symphony from 2007-2012. In November 2011, she was appointed conductor of the Hartford Symphony. She was the first woman and the youngest ever at the post. She recently signed a six-year contract to remain at its musical helm.

She conducted the entire 2014-2015 season of the Santa Fe Opera, weaving in Eastern and Western singers and instruments. She has conducted the Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center, and made her recording debut in 2012, conducting the New Zealand Symphony with works by various Chinese composers.

The Connoisseur Concert will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7 at Roberts Theatre at St. Andrew's School, 3900 Jog Road, Boca Raton. A pre-concert conversation will take place from 2-2:30 p.m. for those who want to know more about the pieces beforehand.

Single tickets are \$45-\$75. Call 866-687-1201 or e-mail tickets@thesymphonia.org.