

**GERARD SALONGA** is currently the music director of the ABS-CBN Philharmonic Orchestra in Manila, and is in his second season as assistant conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.

Born in Manila, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the Ateneo De Manila University, and later graduated summa cum laude from Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. For his work in popular music and theater, he is a four-time winner of the Aliw award for best musical direction, was inducted into the Aliw hall of fame, and has twice won the Gawad Buhay Philstage award for his work conducting the Manila productions of West Side Story (Stages) and Sweeney Todd (Repertory Philippines). He has conducted Carousel and Little Women for Repertory Philippines, as well as Baby and Dreamgirls for Atlantis.

In 2012 Gerard was honored as one of The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM), the Philippines' highest civilian award to achievers under the age of 40. That same year he was named music director of the ABS-CBN Philharmonic Orchestra, a professional orchestra in Manila maintained by Philippine broadcast giant ABS-CBN.

In 2016 he was chosen to be one of the assistant conductors of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, selected through audition by the orchestra and its music director Jaap van Zweden from a field of 170 international applicants. In this capacity he worked closely as assistant and cover with maestros such as Jaap van Zweden, Yu Long, Jun Märkl, David Stern, Constantin Trinks, and Zhang Guoyong. Last May he traveled with the HK Phil assisting Jaap van Zweden on the orchestra's highly successful concerts at the Singapore Esplanade, Hamer Hall in Melbourne, and the Sydney Opera House.

He has guest-conducted the HK Phil, Philippine Philharmonic, Shanghai Opera House Orchestra and Chorus, Evergreen Symphony, Bangkok Symphony, Malaysian Philharmonic, Orchestra Victoria in Melbourne, and early this year made his debut with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. His arrangements and orchestrations have been performed by orchestras such as the HK Phil, RTE Concert Orchestra, New York Pops, Winnipeg Symphony, and the Cincinnati Pops. In December of 2016 Gerard orchestrated the Concerto for Bassoon and Orchestra by National Artist Col. Antonino Buenaventura, which was given its world premiere by the Philippine Philharmonic and bassoonist Adolfo Mendoza.

This season, he will continue his work with the Hong Kong Philharmonic as assistant conductor, and will again be conducting several weeks in the season, including Christmas, Valentine's, and the famous Cirque Dela Symphonie. He made a return to the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra in September, and in February will once again conduct the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, performing music by Benjamin Britten, plus the world premiere of Australian composer Lachlan Skipworth's work for Taiko ensemble and symphony orchestra.

Gerard is married to violinist Divina Francisco and they make their home in Manila with their two children.