

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg

One of the leading violinists of our time, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg is best known for her exhilarating performances, passionate interpretations, musical depth and unique charisma. A highly acclaimed soloist and recording artist, Nadja has also gained recognition in the orchestral arena. In 2013-2014, Nadja celebrates her sixth season as Music Director of the New Century Chamber Orchestra.

Nadja led the 19-member string orchestra on their largest national tour to date in January and February 2013, with debut performances in Danville, KY; Sewanee, TN; Greenville, SC; Greenville, NC; Winchester, VA; Bethesda, MD; and return performances in Evanston, IL and Ann Arbor, MI. The 2013 National Tour was Nadja's third tour with New Century, following the resounding success of two 2011 tours, which took the orchestra to the East Coast, Midwest, and Southern California.

A powerful and innovative presence on the recording scene, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg started the NSS Music label in 2005. On May 8, 2012, NSS Music released its first DVD entitled *On Our Way: Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the New Century Chamber Orchestra*. *On Our Way* chronicles how Nadja's dynamic leadership has brought a renewed sense of vitality to an already accomplished and acclaimed ensemble. The film weaves together a live tour concert from the Eli and Edyth Broad Stage in Santa Monica, California, with rehearsals, on-camera anecdotes, and behind-the-scenes footage to reveal the makings of a legendary partnership.

In 2009, NSS Music released "*Together*," Nadja's first recording collaboration with New Century. "*Together*" includes Impressions by Clarice Assad, which was given its world premiere by New Century in 2008; Piazzolla's *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*; Gershwin's *Bess You is My Woman Now* from *Porgy and Bess*, arranged for string orchestra, both with Nadja as soloist; and Bartók's *Romanian Folk Dances* arranged for string orchestra. In November 2010, NSS Music released the highly anticipated second recording by Nadja and New Century. A live recording featuring Strauss's *Metamorphosen*, Barber's *Adagio for Strings* and Mahler's *Adagietto* from *Symphony No. 5*, the CD has been praised as "brilliant" (Oregon Music News), and allmusic.com advised, "For those who like orchestral music for strings that takes nothing less than revelation as its goal, this is a must-have."

The NSS Music record label continues to grow, with the most recent addition to the label family being the acclaimed American String Quartet. The American's "*Schubert's Echo*" CD was released in August 2010. The label features Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg's "*Originis, Live from Brazil*" (a collaboration with guitarists Sérgio and Odair Assad), "*Merry*" (a compilation of Christmas favorites), "*Nadja*" (Tchaikovsky and Assad, violin concertos), "*Live*" (Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and Anne-Marie McDermott), as well as "*Love, All that It Is*" (NSS Music's first jazz album featuring The Clarice Assad Trio), Anne-Marie McDermott's "*Bach*", and John Cerminaro's "*John Cerminaro, A Life of Music*." Additionally, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg has over twenty releases on the EMI and Nonesuch labels.

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg's exceptional artistry is paired with great musical intelligence which, along with her unique personality, have served her well in numerous environments – on camera, in a commercial for Signet Bank, hosting a *Backstage/Live from Lincoln Center* program for PBS, appearing in the PBS/BBC series *The Mind*, even talking to Big Bird on *Sesame Street*. She was the subject of the 2000 Academy Award-nominated film, *Speaking in Strings*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Released in theaters nationwide and subsequently premiered on HBO's Signatures channel in 1999, this intensely personal documentary on her life is available on VHS and DVD through New Video. The CD of music from the film was released in 1999 by Angel/EMI. Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg appeared on ABC's primetime comedy *Dharma & Greg* in 2001, and she has also been interviewed and profiled on CBS' *60 Minutes*, *60 Minutes II*, and *Sunday Morning*; CNN's *Newsstand*; NBC's *National News* and *Newsstand*; NBC's *National News* and *The Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson; A&E's *Artist of the Week with Elliot Forrest*; Bravo's *Arts & Minds* and *The Art of Influence*; PBS' *Live from Lincoln Center*, *The Charlie Rose Show*, and *City Arts*. On the publishing front, *Nadja: On My Way*, her autobiography written for children discussing her experiences as a young musician building a career, was published by Crown Books in 1989.

Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg's professional career began in 1981 when she won the Walter W. Naumburg International Violin Competition. In 1983 she was recognized with an Avery Fisher Career Grant, and in 1988 was Ovarions Debut Recording Artist of the Year. In 1999 she was honored with the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize, awarded to instrumentalists who have demonstrated "outstanding achievement and excellence in music." In May of that same year, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg was awarded an honorary Master of Musical Arts from the New Mexico State University, the first honorary degree the University has ever awarded. An American citizen, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg was born in Rome and emigrated to the United States at the age of eight to study at The Curtis Institute of Music. She later studied with Dorothy DeLay at The Juilliard School.

For more information on Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg, please visit these websites:

www.nadjasalernosonnenberg.com

www.nssmusic.com

www.ncco.org