

# New Century Chamber Orchestra

NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG, MUSIC DIRECTOR

## NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG AND THE NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCE 2014-2015 SEASON

**Salerno-Sonnenberg's Seventh Season as Music Director Highlighted By Commissioned New Work from Featured Composer Derek Bermel; Guest Violinist Glenn Dicterow Leading Masterworks from the String Chamber Repertoire; First Performance at the Green Music Center; and First-Time Collaboration With The San Francisco Girls Chorus In a Program of Holiday Favorites**



San Francisco, May 20, 2014 – Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the New Century Chamber Orchestra continue their inspired partnership for a seventh season. In four subscription concerts, the Orchestra, praised by Georgia Rowe of *San Francisco Classical Voice* for its continued efforts to “expand the boundaries of classical music,” performs a wide range of repertoire spanning four centuries including Stravinsky’s *Pulcinella Suite*, Mahler’s transcription of the Schubert String Quartet D. 810 “Death and the Maiden,” Brahms’ Sextet

for Strings in Bb Major, Mozart’s Divertimento K. 136, and Arvo Pärt’s *Fratres*. Committed to broadening the chamber orchestra repertoire, New Century’s 2014/15 Featured Composer is Derek Bermel. A virtuoso clarinetist as well as composer, Mr. Bermel appears as a performer on the season opening program and returns later in the season to introduce a commissioned new work for string orchestra. Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg takes the stage as soloist for Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons* in a program that features a variety of holiday classics and a first-time collaboration with the San Francisco Girls Chorus. The concerts will be presented throughout the Bay Area and in a first-time appearance at Sonoma State University’s Weill Hall. Another major season highlight is a rare Bay Area appearance by retiring New York Philharmonic concertmaster Glenn Dicterow, invited by Salerno-Sonnenberg to lead the March set of concerts.

“My collaboration with New Century Chamber Orchestra remains one of the most rewarding artistic partnerships I’ve ever experienced,” said Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg. “This is an orchestra of virtuoso musicians who play as one and I’m extremely excited to ‘share’ them with the incredible violinist Glenn Dicterow in March. Both musicians *and* audiences thrive on new and different experiences and our 2014/15 season demonstrates our commitment to expanding the horizons of the orchestra and its fans.”

The season opens with a program that highlights three chamber works by 2014/15 Featured Composer Derek Bermel. Recognized nationally for his multi-faceted career as a composer, clarinetist and conductor, Bermel was recently named Artistic Director of the intrepid American Composer’s Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. Bermel joins



members of New Century for *A Short History of the Universe* for String Quartet and Clarinet and *Silvioudades*, a duet for clarinet and violin that also features Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg. His final work *Oct Up* features two string quartets and percussion. The concert also includes a reprise of one of New Century’s most popular performances, Shchedrin’s take on Bizet’s *Carmen Suite*. A signature work in the orchestra’s repertory, the piece drew rave reviews and standing ovations in September 2011 with Joshua Kosman of the *San Francisco Chronicle* praising New Century for a “superb performance, marked by rhythmic vivacity and emotional brilliance.” Arvo Pärt’s other-worldly and immensely popular *Fratres* completes the

program. Existing in a variety of different instrumental incarnations, the work will be performed in its most recognized version for solo violin and string orchestra.



Building on last season's collaborations with the San Francisco Opera's Adler Fellows and Chanticleer, New Century welcomes the San Francisco Girls Chorus for a program of holiday favorites. The Girls Chorus will perform Vaughan William's Winter from *Folksongs of the Four Seasons* and Cui's *Radiant Stars*, with New Century joining them for Mozart's *Engel Gottes Künden* and John Rutter's *Nativity Carol*, in addition to selections from Handel's *Messiah* and a Medley of Christmas Carols, arranged by former Featured Composer Clarice Assad. The program will also feature Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*, Corelli's Concerto Grosso in G minor, Op. 6, No. 8 "Christmas Concerto," Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, and Vivaldi's Winter from *The Four Seasons* featuring Salerno-Sonnenberg as soloist.



The season continues in March with a special guest appearance by violinist Glenn Dicterow who will lead New Century in a program of works for string orchestra. Established worldwide as one of the most prominent American violinists of his generation, Glenn Dicterow has been concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic since 1980 and has since performed with them as soloist on every season. Dicterow's long standing relationship with the New York Philharmonic began with his solo debut performing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto at aged 11 which propelled his career as a soloist appearing with orchestras all over the country and abroad. Following 34 distinguished years with the orchestra, he is retiring at the end of the 2013/14 season and plans to make California his home where he is currently the holder of the Robert Mann Chair in Strings Chamber and Chamber Music at the University of California's Thornton School of Music. The program opens with Mozart's Divertimento K. 136 by Mozart, a work written when the composer was only 15 years old and was one of three such works composed in Salzburg during the winter of 1772. Also featured on the program is Sextet for Strings No. 1 in Bb major, Brahms' first chamber work for strings without piano, plus Grieg's *Two Nordic Melodies* and Holst's *St. Paul's Suite*.

A West Coast premiere by Derek Bermel closes the 2014/15 season. The new work has been co-commissioned in collaboration with a national consortium of orchestras including River Oaks Chamber Orchestra of Houston and A Far Cry of Boston. The consortium has been established as part of an effort to increase the national impact of the works commissioned by New Century, in addition to touring and recording commissioned works. Featuring alongside the premiere are two monumental works for string orchestra; Stravinsky's *Pulcinella Suite* and the Schubert/Mahler String Quartet in D minor D. 810 "Death and the Maiden." A corner stone in the chamber music repertoire, Schubert's original version for string quartet has received numerous transcriptions including Mahler's 1896 setting for string orchestra.

Subscriptions to the New Century Chamber Orchestra are on sale now. 3-Concert Subscriptions range from \$78 to \$165; 4-Concert Subscriptions range from \$104 - \$220. Call (415) 357-1111 ext. 4 or visit [www.ncco.org](http://www.ncco.org) to purchase a subscription.

Single tickets range in price from \$29 to \$61 and will go on sale August 1, 2014 through City Box Office: [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com) and (415) 392-4400. Discounted \$15 single tickets are available for patrons under 35.

Ticket information for the December performance at the Green Music Center is available at [www.gmc.sonoma.edu](http://www.gmc.sonoma.edu) and (866) 955-6040.

Open Rehearsal tickets are \$8 general admission and can be purchased through City Box Office beginning August 1, 2014: [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com) and (415) 392-4400.

For further information on New Century, please visit [www.ncco.org](http://www.ncco.org). Media contacts are listed at the end of the release.

## **New Century Chamber Orchestra 2014-2015 Season Calendar**

### **Carmen Returns**

**September 11-14, 2014**

Open Rehearsal: Wednesday, September 10, 10 a.m., Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

Thursday, September 11, 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, Berkeley

Friday, September 12, 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto

Saturday, September 13, 8 p.m., San Francisco Conservatory

Sunday, September 14, 5 p.m., Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

**Bizet/ Shchedrin:** *Carmen Suite*

**Arvo Pärt:** *Fratres*

**Derek Bermel:** *A Short History of the Universe* for String Quartet and Clarinet

Derek Bermel, *clarinet*

**Derek Bermel:** *Oct Up* for Two String Quartets and Percussion

**Derek Bermel:** *Silvioudades*

Derek Bermel, *clarinet*

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, *violin*

### **Holiday Favorites with the San Francisco Girls Chorus**

**December 18-21, 2014**

Open Rehearsal: Wednesday, December 17, 10 a.m., Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

Thursday, December 18, 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, Berkeley

Friday, December 19, 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto

Saturday, December 20, 8 p.m., Nourse Auditorium, San Francisco

Sunday, December 21, 5 p.m., Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

\*Special Performance: Friday, December 12, 2014, 7:30 p.m. in Joan and Stanford I. Weill Hall, Green Music Center, Sonoma State University

**Handel:** *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* from *Solomon*

**Corelli:** Concerto Grosso in G minor, Op. 6, No. 8, "Christmas Concerto"

**Vivaldi:** *The Four Seasons: Winter*

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, *violin*

**Bach:** Brandenburg Concerto Number 3

**Rutter:** *Nativity Carol*

**Mozart:** *Engel Gottes Künden*

**Handel:** *Messiah: Unto us a child is born, Hallelujah* (arr. Assad)

**Vaughan Williams:** *Folksongs of the Four Seasons: Winter*

**Cesar Antonovich Cui:** *Radiant Stars*

### **Dieterow Leads Brahms and Mozart**

**March 5-8, 2015**

Open Rehearsal: Wednesday, March 4, 10 a.m., Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

Thursday, March 5, 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, Berkeley

Friday, March 6, 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto

Saturday, March 7, 8 p.m., Nourse Auditorium, San Francisco

Sunday, March 8, 5 p.m., Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

**Mozart:** Divertimento in D Major K. 136  
**Grieg:** *Two Nordic Melodies*, Op. 63  
**Holst:** *St. Paul's Suite*, Op. 29, No. 2  
**Brahms:** Sextet for Strings No. 1 in Bb Major, Op. 18

**Schubert and Stravinsky Masterpieces**  
**May 28-31, 2015**

Open Rehearsal: May 27, 10 a.m., Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

Thursday, May 28, 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, Berkeley  
Friday, May 29, 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto  
Saturday, May 30, 8 p.m., San Francisco Conservatory  
Sunday, May 31, 5 p.m., Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

**Stravinsky:** *Pulcinella Suite*

**Derek Bermel:** Featured Composer Commission

(Commissioned in Collaboration with River Oaks Chamber Orchestra of Houston and A Far Cry of Boston)

**Schubert / Mahler:** String Quartet in D Minor D. 810 "Death and the Maiden"

**ABOUT NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

*The New Century Chamber Orchestra*, one of only a handful of conductorless ensembles in the world, was founded in 1992 by cellist, Miriam Perkoff, and violist, Wieslaw Pogorzelski. Musical decisions are made collaboratively by the 19-member string ensemble, including San Francisco Bay Area musicians and those who travel from across the U.S. and Europe to perform together. World-renowned violin soloist, chamber musician and recording artist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg leads from the concertmaster chair. She joined the ensemble as music director and concertmaster in January 2008, bringing "a new sense of vitality and determination, as well as an audacious swagger that is an unmistakable fingerprint of its leader," according to *Gramophone* magazine.

In addition to performing classic pieces of chamber orchestra repertoire, New Century commissions important new works, breathes life into rarely heard jewels of the past and performs world premieres. The New Century Chamber Orchestra Featured Composer program commissions composers to write new works, with the goals of expanding chamber orchestra repertoire and providing audiences with a deeper understanding of today's living composers. The orchestra provides insight into the breadth of the Featured Composer's work by performing a variety of pieces by the composer throughout the season.

In 2011, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg and New Century embarked on the Orchestra's first two national tours together. The performances in the Midwest, East Coast, and Southern California garnered record-breaking audiences and national critical acclaim. In January and February 2013, New Century followed with a highly-successful eight-state national tour, the largest and most ambitious artistic undertaking in the organization's history. In addition to touring efforts, New Century's national footprint has also continued to grow with a rapidly increasing national radio presence. The ensemble has been broadcast a total of 21 times on American Public Media's Performance Today, with each broadcast heard on 260 radio stations across the country.

The orchestra has released six compact discs. The two latest albums, *Together* (released August 2009) and *LIVE: Barber, Strauss, Mahler* (released November 2010), were recorded with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg on the NSS Music label. Other recordings include a 1996 collaborative project with Kent Nagano and Berkeley Symphony Orchestra featuring the work of 20th century-Swiss composer Frank Martin, and *Written With the Heart's Blood*, a 1997 Grammy Award finalist, both on the New Albion label. In 1998 the orchestra recorded and released works of Argentine composers Alberto Williams and Alberto Ginastera on the d'Note label, and, in 2004, the orchestra recorded and released *Oculus*, a CD of Kurt Rohde's compositions on the Mondovibe label. All of the recordings have been distributed both internationally and in the United States. The orchestra's first concert DVD, filmed by Paola di Florio, director of the 1999 Academy Award-nominated film *Speaking*

*in Strings*, was released May 8, 2012. The DVD weaves together documentary footage and a live tour concert from a February 2011 performance at the Broad Stage in Santa Monica.

#### **ABOUT NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG**

*Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg*, an internationally-acclaimed violin soloist and chamber musician best known for her exhilarating performances and passionate interpretations, joined the New Century Chamber Orchestra in January 2008 as music director. Nadja's first five seasons were hailed as a tremendous success by audiences and critics alike – "a marriage that works," in her words, and renewing enthusiasm for "one of the most burnished and exciting ensembles in the Bay Area," according to Rich Scheinin of the *San Jose Mercury News*.

A powerful and innovative presence on the recording scene, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg continues to enrich the collection of her record label NSS Music, which she started in 2005. The label's roster of artists includes Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg, pianist Anne-Marie McDermott, horn player John Cerminaro, pianist/composer Clarice Assad, conductor Marin Alsop, the American String Quartet, the Colorado Symphony, Orquestra Sinfonica do Estado de Sao Paulo and the New Century Chamber Orchestra. *Together*, the first CD with New Century, features Astor Piazzolla's Four Seasons of Buenos Aires. The second CD, a live recording featuring Strauss's *Metamorphosen*, Barber's *Adagio for Strings* and Mahler's *Adagietto* from Symphony No. 5, 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."

Nadja 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 1999, she was honored with the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize. Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg was born in Rome and immigrated 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 Nadja, please visit [www.nadjasalernosonnenberg.com](http://www.nadjasalernosonnenberg.com) and [www.nssmusic.com](http://www.nssmusic.com).

#### **ABOUT DEREK BERMEL**

Composer and clarinetist Derek Bermel has composed works that draw from a rich variety of musical genres, including classical, jazz, pop, rock, blues, folk, and gospel. Bermel currently serves as Artist-in-Residence at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and as Creative Advisor to the American Composers Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. He has received commissions from orchestras, ensembles, and soloists worldwide, and his many awards include the Rome Prize, Guggenheim and Fulbright Fellowships, and the Alpert Award in the Arts.

Bermel has performed his clarinet concerto with more than a dozen orchestras, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and at the Beijing New Music Festival. In 2010 the album 'Voices,' featuring four of his orchestral works, was nominated for a Grammy. Bermel has worked with a diverse array of musicians including Wynton Marsalis, Midori, John Adams, Paquito D'Rivera, Philip Glass, Sir James Galway, Gustavo Dudamel, Luciana Souza, Mos Def, and Stephen Sondheim.

He studied composition with Louis Andriessen, William Albright, Henri Dutilleux, and William Bolcom and clarinet with Ben Armato and Keith Wilson. He also studied ethnomusicology and orchestration with André Hajdu in Jerusalem, Thracian folk style with Nicola Iliev in Bulgaria, caxixi with Julio Góes in Brazil, and Lobi xylophone with Ngmen Baaru in Ghana.

More info can be found at [www.derekbermel.com](http://www.derekbermel.com).

#### **PHOTO CREDITS**

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