

**NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AND NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG
ANNOUNCE MAY 21 RELEASE OF
*FROM A TO Z: 21ST CENTURY CONCERTOS***

San Francisco, CA – May 13, 2014 – The New Century Chamber Orchestra and Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg are pleased to announce their seventh recording and third on the NSS Music Label, *From A to Z: 21st Century Concertos*, scheduled for release May 21. The recording features four world premiere works by William Bolcom, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, Clarice Assad and Michael Daugherty for solo violin and string orchestra. All four works were commissioned as part of New Century's Featured Composer program and recorded live in San Francisco Bay Area performances with Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg as soloist.



From A to Z: 21st Century Concertos opens with *Dreamscapes* by Clarice Assad (Featured Composer 2008/09) praised by Jeff Kaliss of *San Francisco Classical Voice* as “an exciting and worthy addition to the repertoire... showcasing the NCCO’s individual and collective skills.” The second work on the album is *Romanza* by William Bolcom (Featured Composer 2009/10) which has seen multiple performances featuring on both of the orchestra's highly acclaimed 2011 East Coast and 2013 National tours. Regarding New Century’s performance of this work in their New York debut, James Oestreich of the *New York Times* said that “Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg traced these wildly varied moods with consummate skill and panache.” The final two works include *Commedia dell’Arte* by Pulitzer Prizewinner Ellen Taaffe Zwilich (Featured Composer 2011/12) and *Fallingwater* by Michael Daugherty (Featured Composer 2013/14), the latter receiving its world premiere this past season.

New Century Chamber Orchestra’s Featured Composer Residency Program, launched through the vision of Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg during her 2008/09 inaugural season, was established to give structure to the organization’s longstanding commitment to the creation and performance of new music. Each season, New Century works with a different composer, who creates at least one new work for the orchestra with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg as concertmaster, soloist and muse. New Century also performs at least one existing piece by the Featured Composer to both represent a wider range of his or her work and to help ensure the longevity of past compositions.

“One of the first actions I took in my new post, and one which I am most proud of, was to create New Century’s Featured Composer program, which centers around new music by some of the world’s most established composers, promising and talented young composers and even composers who reach outside the realm of classical music,” says Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg. “It has been an honor to work with these incredible musical minds and to learn from them as well. My admiration and respect for the combined talents of these composers is endless and my gratitude is heartfelt. Their works add not only to the violin repertoire but to the chamber music canon and string chamber orchestra repertoire in particular.”

New Century Chamber 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. For more information on New Century Chamber Orchestra, please visit <http://www.ncco.org>

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