



**NEW CENTURY CELEBRATES THE FESTIVE SEASON
WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO GIRLS CHORUS AND
KLEZMER CLARINETIST DAVID KRAKAUER
“HOLIDAY LIGHTS” DECEMBER 17-20**



San Francisco, CA - November 19, 2015 – New Century Chamber Orchestra celebrates the holidays **December 17-20** with a program of festive classics that shines a light on the Christmas and Hanukkah season. Building upon the orchestra’s creative collaborations with distinguished guest artists and ensembles, New Century welcomes the return of the GRAMMY Award-winning San Francisco Girls Chorus and introduces audiences to the genre-bending, international klezmer clarinetist David Krakauer.

Last season’s holiday collaboration with the San Francisco Girls Chorus was billed as “irresistible” by George Rowe of the *Contra Costa Times* who went on to say “With Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and her players establishing gently rhythmic, lilting waves of sound, the Girls Chorus sang with firm tone and graceful phrasing. The effect was gorgeous...” This year, they team up with New Century for *O Divine Redeemer* by Charles Gounod and *Dixit Dominus* by Baldassare Galuppi as well as performing alone for *I Wonder as I Wander* by John Jacob Niles and a medley of Christmas Carols. New Century opens the program with two of Johann Sebastian Bach’s most beloved chorales, *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring* and *Sheep May Safely Graze*.



Hailed as a “brilliant clarinetist” (*New Yorker*) and “overwhelmingly expressive” (*Wall Street Journal*), David Krakauer is widely considered to be one of the world’s leading exponents of Eastern European Jewish klezmer music as well as a major voice in classical music. Krakauer makes his debut with New Century featuring as soloist in a selection of traditional Jewish works including *Hanukkah O Hanukkah*, *Wedding Dance*, *Der Gasn Nign* and *Der Heyser Bulgar*. As a member of his Klezmer Madness! Ensemble, Krakauer regularly tours the globe and appears at major international festivals and jazz clubs such as the BBC Proms, Carnegie’s Zankel Hall, Krakow Jewish Culture Festival and the Library of Congress. Krakauer is in demand as a guest soloist and performs with some of the world’s most esteemed groups including the Emerson, Orion and Kronos String Quartets and orchestras such as the Detroit Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Dresdener Philharmonie and Amsterdam Sinfonietta.

“Holiday Lights” will be given on four evenings in different locations around the Bay Area: **Thursday, December 17** at 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, Berkeley, **Friday, December 18** at 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto, **Saturday, December 19** at 8 p.m., Herbst Theatre, San Francisco and **Sunday,**

December 20 at 5 p.m., Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael. New Century offers an Open Rehearsal **Wednesday, December 16** at 10 a.m., Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco for a price of only \$15. The Open Rehearsal will offer a sneak preview of the concert repertoire while allowing audiences to experience the musical democracy of a rehearsal without a conductor.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Holiday Lights

December 17-20, 2015

Johann Sebastian Bach: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* from Cantata 208

(arr. Clarice Assad)

Johann Sebastian Bach: *Sheep May Safely Graze* from Cantata 147

New Century Chamber Orchestra

Traditional/John Jacob Niles: *I Wonder as I Wander*

Various: Medley of Christmas Carols

San Francisco Girls Chorus

Baldassare Galuppi: *Dixit Dominus*

Charles Gounod: *O Divine Redeemer*

New Century Chamber Orchestra & San Francisco Girls Chorus

Traditional: *Hanukkah O Hankukkah*

(arr. Kathy Tagg)

Traditional: *Wedding Dance*

(arr. David Krakauer)

Traditional: *Der Gasn Nign* (The Street Song)

(arr. David Krakauer)

David Krakauer: Synagogue Wail for solo clarinet

Traditional: *Der Heyser Bulgar* (The Hot Bulgar)

(arr. David Krakauer)

New Century Chamber Orchestra & David Krakauer

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Friday, December 18, 2015, 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto

Saturday, December 19, 2015, 8 p.m., Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Sunday, December 20, 2015, 5 p.m., Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, Marin

Single tickets range in price from \$29 to \$61 and can be purchased through City Box Office:

www.cityboxoffice.com and (415) 392-4400. Discounted \$15 single tickets are available for patrons under 35.

Open rehearsal tickets are priced at \$15.

For further information on New Century, please visit www.ncco.org. Media contacts are listed at the end of the

release.

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. 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, makes musical decisions collaboratively. 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 to New Century “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. This season marks her seventh with the orchestra and continues an illustrious line of concertmasters including Stuart Canin (1992-1999) and Krista Bennion Feeney (1999-2006).

In addition to performing classic pieces of chamber orchestra repertoire and commissioning new work, New Century breathes new life into rarely heard jewels of the past and performs world premieres. Salerno-Sonnenberg and New Century have made three successful national tours together. The 2011 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 orchestra has released seven compact discs, the most recent its *From A to Z: 21st Century Concertos*. The orchestra’s first concert DVD, *On Our Way: Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the New Century Chamber Orchestra*, released in May 2012, weaves together documentary footage and concert footage from a February 2011 performance at the Broad Stage in Santa Monica.

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

ABOUT DAVID KRAKAUER

Internationally acclaimed clarinetist DAVID KRAKAUER redefines the notion of a concert artist. Known for his mastery of myriad styles, he occupies the unique position of being one of the world’s leading exponents of Eastern European Jewish klezmer music, and at the same time is a major voice in classical music. As one of the foremost musicians of the vital new wave of klezmer, David Krakauer tours the globe with his celebrated Klezmer Madness! ensemble. While firmly rooted in traditional klezmer folk tunes, the band “hurls the tradition of klezmer music into the rock era” (Jon Pareles, *The New York Times*).

In addition to his annual European tours to major international festivals and jazz clubs, recent seasons brought Krakauer and his band to the Library of Congress, Stanford Lively Arts, San Francisco Performances, the Krannert Center, Carnegie’s Zankel Hall, the Venice Biennale, Krakow Jewish Culture Festival, BBC Proms, Saalfelden Jazz Festival, Transmusicales de Rennes, La Cigale, New Morning in Paris, and many others.

In addition, Krakauer is in demand worldwide as a guest soloist with the finest ensembles including the Emerson, Orion and Kronos String Quartets, as well as orchestras including the Amsterdam Sinfonietta, the Detroit Symphony, the Weimar Staatskapelle, the Phoenix Symphony, the Dresdener Philharmonie, and the Seattle Symphony. Krakauer’s discography contains some of the most important klezmer recordings of the

past decade including six CDs under his own name: two on John Zorn's Tzadik Label and four on Label Bleu; plus collaborations with the Klezmatics, Itzak Perlman, the Kronos Quartet/Osvaldo Golijov and Socalled.

PHOTO CREDITS

New Century Chamber Orchestra / Matthew Washburn

San Francisco Girls Chorus / Naho Yoshida

David Krakauer / GMD 3

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