



NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES DANIEL HOPE AS ARTISTIC PARTNER

San Francisco, CA - October 11, 2016 – New Century Chamber Orchestra announced today the appointment of British violinist Daniel Hope as Artistic Partner for three seasons, beginning 2017-2018 through 2019-2020. The position of Artistic Partner will provide artistic continuity throughout the search process for a permanent Music Director to succeed Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, who steps down at the end of the 2016-2017 season.



Following the January announcement that Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg would be stepping down at the end of the 2016-2017 season, Executive Director Philip Wilder and the New Century Chamber Orchestra Board of Directors initiated a strategic process, creating a search committee dedicated to identifying the next stage of New Century's artistic leadership. It was unanimously agreed that the creation of a short-term artistic position would serve to maintain artistic stability and enhance organizational direction during the search for a permanent Music Director. In his role as Artistic Partner, Daniel Hope will lead the orchestra in multiple performances each season, with candidates appearing as Guest Concertmasters until a permanent successor has been appointed. The search committee is led by Founding President Paula Gambs and consists of members of the Board, musicians and staff.

"We are delighted that Daniel Hope has agreed to partner with us during this time of transition," said Executive Director Philip Wilder. "Daniel's creativity and experience as a chamber musician, soloist, orchestral leader, and music advocate makes him uniquely qualified to guide the New Century Chamber Orchestra into its next chapter. I have known Daniel for more than a decade, and have witnessed his ability to create one-of-a-kind programming and experiences for audiences. With Daniel's artistic guidance, our audiences are guaranteed a thrilling ride over the next three years."

Called "adventurous and brilliant" by the *New York Times*, Daniel Hope made his debut with New Century Chamber Orchestra in February 2016 as Guest Concertmaster in a special centennial tribute to his mentor, Yehudi Menuhin. These performances were hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as a "winning spirit of camaraderie and collaboration" with the *San Jose Mercury News* commenting that "if the concert represented a high-water mark for the orchestra, what it suggested for the future was downright tantalizing." Hope has appeared as soloist with the world's major orchestras, including Boston and Chicago Symphonies, as well as the major orchestras of Berlin, London, Moscow and Vienna. Hope also directs chamber orchestras regularly as soloist including Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Camerata Salzberg, among others. Most recently, he was announced as Music Director of the Zurich Chamber Orchestra, succeeding Sir Roger Norrington. Hope's fresh approach to classical music was further recognized in September 2015 with the prestigious European Cultural Prize for Music and he has been nominated for numerous GRAMMY awards throughout his prolific recording career. The versatility of his work has seen him publish three books and he regularly produces radio and television shows around the world.

ABOUT DANIEL HOPE

British violinist Daniel Hope has toured the world extensively as a virtuoso soloist and is renowned for his musical versatility and creativity as well as for his dedication to humanitarian causes. Hope regularly performs

with the world's major orchestras and conductors including the Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, and Toronto and Atlanta Symphony Orchestras, as well as the major orchestras of Berlin, Birmingham, Dallas, Detroit, Dresden, Israel, London, Moscow, Oslo, Paris, Stockholm, and Vienna. Raised and educated in England, Hope earned degrees at the Royal Academy of Music, where he studied with renowned Russian pedagogue Zakhar Bron.

Considered to be "the most exciting British string player since Jacqueline du Pre," according to the *London Observer*, Hope has received praise throughout the world with *The New York Times* encapsulating his unique attributes as "... a violinist of probing intellect and commanding style... In a business that likes tidy boxes drawn around its commodities, the British violinist Daniel Hope resists categorization.'

Daniel Hope, an exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist, has earned numerous GRAMMY nominations, a Classical BRIT award, the Deutsche Schallplattenpreis and five ECHO Klassik Prizes. He previously recorded for Warner Classics and Nimbus, playing Bach, Britten, Elgar, Finzi, Foulds, Ireland, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Penderecki, Schnittke, Shostakovich, Tippett, Walton, and Weill. His recording of the Berg Violin Concerto was voted to be the "best available of all time" by *Gramophone Magazine* in 2010. His Mendelssohn CD for Deutsche Grammophon featuring the Violin Concerto and Octet was voted one of the finest Mendelssohn recordings by *The New York Times* in 2009.

As a music director, Hope leads chamber orchestras as violin soloist with ensembles including the Zurich Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Camerata Salzburg, and Concerto Koln. He has performed at the world's most important festivals, such as the BBC Proms, and the Lucerne, Ravinia, Salzburg, Schleswig-Holstein, and Tanglewood festivals.

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 eighth 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>.

PHOTO CREDITS

Daniel Hope / Bailey Davidson

Press and Media Relations Contact:

Brenden Guy

Director of Marketing & Communications

(415) 357-1111 ext. 305

bguy@ncco.org