



**NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PRESENTS "AMERICANS IN PARIS"
IN COLLABORATION WITH CHANTICLEER
MARCH 16-19**



San Francisco, CA – February 16, 2017 – New Century Chamber Orchestra continues its 25th Anniversary Season celebrations with the return of Chanticleer, “the world’s reigning men’s chorus” (*The New Yorker*). Following a highly successful, first-time collaboration in 2014, New Century and Chanticleer will present “Americans in Paris” in four Bay Area locations **March 16-19** with a program of works that includes a suite from Gershwin’s *An American in Paris*, selections from Stravinsky’s *Apollon Musagète* and a variety of works by French composers including Ravel, Saint-Saëns, Fauré and Satie.

Embarking on a musical journey across France, New Century begins the evening with a Gerrard Schwarz arrangement of Satie’s *Gymnopédie No. 1* and will be featured in further works for string orchestra including a suite from Gershwin’s *An American in Paris*, arranged by 2008-2009 Featured composer Clarice Assad, the final two movements from Stravinsky’s *Apollon Musagète* and the third movement of Roussel’s *Sinfonietta*. Chanticleer takes to the stage with Ravel’s *Trois Chansons*, Saint-Saëns’ *Serenade d’hiver* and Four Cabaret Songs arranged by Bay Area composer and violinist Evan Price. Both ensembles will join forces throughout the evening in further works arranged by Clarice Assad including Fauré’s *Pavane*, a French Medley and a medley of songs by Gershwin and Porter.

Partnering with some of the Bay Area’s premiere organizations is one of many initiatives that Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg introduced throughout her nine year tenure with New Century. In addition to Chanticleer, these collaborations have included the San Francisco Opera Center’s Adler Fellows, San Francisco Girls Chorus and Schola Cantorum. Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg, who steps down at the end of the 2016-2017 season, said: “Working with Chanticleer back in 2014 was a complete departure from the norm for both organizations but we had such fun putting those concerts together that we simply had to do it again. “Creating these sorts of partnerships from scratch is something that I am extremely proud of because it allows us to expand our horizons as a group and continue taking new directions. We’re all delighted to welcome Chanticleer back and to celebrate our 25th birthday together.”

“Americans in Paris” will be presented on four evenings in different locations around the Bay Area: Thursday, March 16 at 8:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley; Friday, March 17 at 8:00 p.m., Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, Palo Alto; Saturday, March 18 at 8:00 p.m., Herbst Theatre, San Francisco; Sunday, March 19 at 5:00 p.m., Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, San Rafael. New Century also offers an Open Rehearsal, Wednesday, March 15 at 10 a.m. at the Kanbar Performing Arts Center in San Francisco for a price of \$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 conductor. Please note that Chanticleer will not appear with New Century in the Open Rehearsal.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

New Century Chamber Orchestra
Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Music Director

Americans in Paris
March 16-19, 2017
Featuring Chanticleer

Open Rehearsal

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Performances

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Friday, March 17, 2017, 8:00 p.m., Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, Palo Alto
Saturday, March 18, 2017, 8:00 p.m., Herbst Theatre, San Francisco
Sunday, March 19, 2017, 5 p.m., Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, Marin

Gershwin (arr. Clarice Assad): Suite from *An American in Paris*
Stravinsky: *Apollon Musagète*
Satie (arr. Gerard Schwarz): *Gymnopédie No. 1*
Roussel: *Allegro* from Sinfonietta for String Orchestra
New Century Chamber Orchestra

Ravel: *Trois Chansons*
Saint-Saëns: *Serenade d'Hiver*
Various (arr. Evan Price): Four Cabaret Songs
Chanticleer

Fauré: *Pavane*
Various (arr. Clarice Assad): French Medley
Gershwin / Porter (arr. Clarice Assad): Medley
New Century & Chanticleer

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 \$15 general admission and can be purchased through City Box Office:
www.cityboxoffice.com and (415) 392-4400.

For further information on New Century, please visit www.ncco.org.

ABOUT CHANTICLEER

Called “**the world’s reigning male chorus**” by *The New Yorker* magazine, the San Francisco based GRAMMY® award-winning ensemble Chanticleer celebrates its 39th season in 2016-17. Praised by the *San Francisco Chronicle* for their “tonal luxuriance and crisply etched clarity,” Chanticleer is known around the world as “an orchestra of voices” for the seamless blend of its twelve male voices ranging from soprano to bass and its original interpretations of vocal literature, from Renaissance to jazz and popular genres, as well as contemporary composition.

Named for the “clear-singing” rooster in Geoffrey Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, Chanticleer was founded in 1978 by tenor Louis A. Botto, who sang in the Ensemble until 1989 and served as Artistic Director until his

death in 1997. Chanticleer was named **Ensemble of the Year** by *Musical America* in 2008, and inducted in the American Classical Music Hall of Fame the same year. William Fred Scott begins his tenure as Chanticleer's fifth Music Director in 2015. William Fred Scott was named Music Director in 2014. A native of Georgia, Scott is the former Assistant Conductor to Robert Shaw at the Atlanta Symphony, former Artistic Director of the Atlanta Opera, an organist and choir director.

Since Chanticleer began releasing recordings in 1981, the group has sold well over a million albums and won two GRAMMY® awards. Chanticleer's recordings are distributed by Chanticleer Records, Naxos, ArkivMusic, Amazon, and iTunes among others, and are available on Chanticleer's website: www.chanticleer.org. Chanticleer's long-standing commitment to commissioning and performing new works was honored in 2008 by the inaugural **Dale Warland/Chorus America Commissioning Award** and the **ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming**.

Chanticleer—a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation—is the recipient of major foundation grants from the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Dunard Fund/USA, The Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation through *USArtists International* in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Bernard Osher Foundation, the Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, The Bob Ross Foundation, Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, and The National Endowment for the Arts. Chanticleer's activities as a not-for-profit corporation are supported by its administrative staff and Board of Trustees. With the help of individual contributions, government, foundation and corporate support, Chanticleer's education programs engage over 5,000 young people annually. The Louis A. Botto (LAB) Choir—an after-school honors program for high school and college students—is now in its sixth year, adding to the ongoing program of in-school clinics and workshops; Youth Choral Festivals™ in the Bay Area and around the country; Skills/LAB—an intensive summer workshop for 100 high school students; master classes for university students nationwide; and the Chanticleer in Sonoma summer workshop for adult choral singers in June 2016. *The Singing Life*—a documentary about Chanticleer's work with young people—was released in 2008. Chanticleer's education program was recognized with the 2010 **Chorus America Education Outreach Award**.

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 ninth with the orchestra and continues an illustrious line of concertmasters including Stuart Canin (1992–1999) and Krista Bennion Feeny (1999–2006).

In addition to performing classic pieces of chamber orchestra repertoire and commissioning new works, 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, the 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 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. Her leadership and tenure with New Century has been hailed as a tremendous success by audiences and critics alike—“a marriage that works,” in her words, that renews 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 include pianist Anne-Marie McDermott, horn player John Cerminaro, pianist/composer Clarice Assad, Marin Alsop, the American String Quartet, the Colorado Symphony and Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo, as well as the New Century Chamber Orchestra.

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. After continuing on to study with Dorothy DeLay at The Juilliard School, 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 *Ovation*’s 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 New Mexico State University, the first honorary degree the University has ever awarded.

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

www.nadjasalernosonnenberg.com

www.nssmusic.com

PHOTO CREDITS

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