



**NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OPENS 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON  
WITH DEBUT APPEARANCE BY ISRAELI PIANIST INON BARNATAN  
SEPTEMBER 15-18, 2016**

**2016-2017 Season Highlights Include an Inaugural Festival in San Francisco Featuring Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg's Final Appearances as Music Director, Guest Concertmaster Ray Chen and Repeat Collaborations with Chanticleer and Pianist Anne-Marie McDermott.**



San Francisco, CA – August 18, 2016 – New Century Chamber Orchestra kicks off its 2016-2017 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, **September 15-18**, with a debut appearance by New York Philharmonic Artist-in-Association, Israeli pianist Inon Barnatan. Returning to the Bay Area following his critically acclaimed San Francisco Symphony East Coast Tour appearances in April 2016, Barnatan performs as soloist for Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 13 in C Major, K. 415. Also featured on the program is *Langsamer Satz* by Anton Webern, Symphony No. 3 by Philip Glass and *Happy Birthday Variations* by Peter Heidrich. This opening performance set includes New Century's first-ever matinee concert on **September 16** at the newly-renovated Herbst Theatre. Immediately preceding the concert is the orchestra's inaugural Stuart Canin Award Luncheon in honor of Bay Area philanthropists Paula and John Gambs. The award is named for New Century's founding Music Director, Stuart Canin, and honors those who have made a deep impact on the arts in the Bay Area and beyond. All proceeds from the luncheon will support the Stuart Canin Artistic Fund which benefits outreach and education initiatives.

The program will be performed on four different occasions throughout the Bay Area: **Thursday, September 15** at 8 PM, First Congregational Church, Berkeley, **Friday, September 16** at 2 PM, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco, **Saturday, September 17** at 8 PM, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco, and **Sunday, September 18** at 5 PM, Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, San Rafael. New Century offers an Open Rehearsal at 10 AM on **Wednesday, September 14** at the Kanbar Center for Performing Arts for a price of only \$15.

A recipient of the Avery Fisher Career Grant and Lincoln Center's Martin E. Segal Award, Inon Barnatan has performed throughout the world with prestigious orchestras such as the San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and the Royal Stockholm Symphony. In March 2016, Barnatan featured as soloist with the San Francisco Symphony in a performance of Copland's Piano Concerto and embarked on a critically acclaimed East Coast Tour. Commenting on his Carnegie Hall appearance, *The New York Times* said: "It was a treat to hear the brilliant pianist Inon Barnatan...and it was hard to imagine a better performance than this." This season marks his third and final year as the New York Philharmonic's inaugural Artist-in-Association, a program designed to enhance the connection between soloist and orchestra. Further appearances include debuts with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Baltimore Symphony and Seattle

Symphony, as well as touring with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, his frequent recital partner, cellist Alisa Weilerstein and clarinetist Anthony McGill.

Celebrating the achievements of both the ensemble and Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, who enters her final season as music director, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season continues in November with award-winning Australian/Taiwanese violinist Ray Chen as guest concertmaster, leading a program of works by Mozart, Britten and Elgar.



GRAMMY Award-winning men's chorus, Chanticleer returns for a collaboration following their sold-out performances with New Century in 2014. The season concludes with a weeklong San Francisco festival that highlights the ensemble's illustrious



25-year history in three separate, one-night-only programs. The opening night of the festival pays homage to the orchestra's Featured Composer Residency Program, established by Nadja in her first season to give structure to the organization's longstanding commitment to the creation and performance of new music. The

festival continues with a farewell tribute to Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, who will take the stage for her final concerto appearance as music director with New Century, performing two of her signature works: Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor and Piazzolla's Four Seasons of Buenos Aires. Pianist Anne-Marie McDermott returns as soloist for the final night of the festival and biggest event of the season performing as soloist in the seldom-heard jazz band version of



Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. Highlighting the orchestra's history of adventurous and varied programming, New Century will perform a diverse repertory of classical



masterworks throughout the season by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Stravinsky, Elgar and Britten, contemporary works by Webern and Glass, and a program of works that combines French classics by Fauré and Satie with songs by George Gershwin and Edith Piaf.

“Our silver anniversary season celebrates the extraordinary achievements that New Century has accomplished over the last quarter of a century,” said Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg. “Having the privilege of being music director for the past nine years has been a transformative experience. As my tenure as music director comes to a close, I leave with a great amount of pride for what we have achieved as an ensemble. New Century is firmly placed on the map as one of the best string orchestras performing and recording today, which is a testament to this group of dedicated and talented musicians that I am proud to call my family.”

Subscriptions to the New Century Chamber Orchestra are on sale now. Three-concert subscriptions range from \$78 to \$165; festival passes range from \$52 to \$155. Call (415) 357-1111, ext. 305, or visit [www.ncco.org](http://www.ncco.org) to purchase.

Single tickets range in price from \$29 to \$61 and are available through City Box Office: [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com) and (415) 392-4400. Discounted \$15 single tickets are available for students with a valid ID.

Open Rehearsal tickets are \$15 general admission and can also be purchased through City Box Office: [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 2016–2017 SEASON CALENDAR**

## **Silver Season Opening**

**September 15–18, 2016**

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, *Concertmaster*

Inon Barnatan, *Piano*

### Open Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 14, 10am, Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

### Performances

Thursday, September 15, 8pm, First Congregational Church, Berkeley

\*Friday, September 16, 2pm, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Saturday, September 17, 8pm, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Sunday, September 18, 5pm, Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

**Anton Webern:** *Langsamer Satz*

**W.A. Mozart:** Piano Concerto No. 13 in C Major, K. 415/387b

**Philip Glass:** Symphony No. 3

**Peter Heidrich:** *Happy Birthday Variations*

### **\*Stuart Canin Award Luncheon**

*In honor of John and Paula Gambs*

Friday, September 16, 11:30am, Herbst Theatre Green Room, San Francisco

Individual Luncheon Ticket and Concert Ticket with premium seating | \$225

Individual Luncheon Ticket | \$175

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## **Ray Chen Leads**

**November 10–13, 2016**

Ray Chen, *Guest Concertmaster & Soloist*

### Open Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 9, 10am, Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

### Performances

Thursday, November 10, 8pm, First Congregational Church, Berkeley

Friday, November 11, 8pm, First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto

Saturday, November 12, 8pm, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Sunday, November 13, 5pm, Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

**W. A. Mozart:** Divertimento in F major, K. 138

**Benjamin Britten:** *Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge* for String Orchestra, op. 10

**W. A. Mozart:** Violin Concerto No. 3 in G Major

**Edward Elgar:** *Introduction and Allegro* for Strings, op. 47

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## **Americans in Paris**

**March 16–19, 2017**

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, *Concertmaster*  
Chanticleer

## Open Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 15, 10am, Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

## Performances

Thursday, March 16, 8pm, First Congregational Church, Berkeley

Friday, March 17, 8pm, First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto

Saturday, March 18, 8pm, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Sunday, March 19, 5pm, Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

**George Gershwin:** *An American in Paris Suite*

**Igor Stravinsky:** *Apollon musagète*

**Gabriel Fauré:** *Pavane*

**Erik Satie:** *Gymnopédies*

**Ned Rorem:** *Four Madrigals*

Songs of Piaf, Gershwin, Dearie, Baker

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**25th Anniversary Festival****I: Opening Night: New Century Creations**

Tuesday, May 16, 2017, 8pm, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

## Works by:

Derek Bermel

Ellen Taaffe Zwilich

Jennifer Higdon

William Bolcom

Clarice Assad

Mark O'Connor

Michael Daugherty

Lera Auerbach

**II: Farewell to Nadja**

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, *Soloist & Concertmaster*

Thursday, May 18, 2017, 8pm, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

**Felix Mendelssohn:** *Symphony No. 10 in B minor*

**Felix Mendelssohn:** *Violin Concerto in E Minor, op. 64 (arr. Tognetti)*

**Astor Piazzolla:** *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*

**III: Silver Jubilee Celebration**

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, *Music Director*

Anne-Marie McDermott, *Piano*

Saturday, May 20, 2017, 8pm, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

**Gershwin:** *An American in Paris Suite*

**Gershwin:** *Rhapsody in Blue* (Original Version for Jazz Band)

**Gershwin:** Selected songs

### **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 Feeney (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](http://www.nadjasalernosonnenberg.com)

[www.nssmusic.com](http://www.nssmusic.com)

#### **PHOTO CREDITS**

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