

New Century  **Chamber Orchestra**
NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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(Philip Wilder. Full-resolution photos of Wilder, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, and New Century Chamber Orchestra musicians are available for download [here](#))

Philip Wilder named new executive director of New Century Chamber Orchestra

Wilder to direct San Francisco-based chamber ensemble led by Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg

San Francisco, CA - July 14, 2014 – Philip Wilder is the new executive director of San Francisco's [New Century Chamber Orchestra](#), Board President Mark Salkind announced today. Wilder, who brings multifaceted experience in leadership, programming, and management of several nonprofit arts and music organizations to the role, is also a musician and performer with deep experience in music education. He begins in the position July 21. He replaces Parker Monroe, who served as executive director for New Century Chamber Orchestra for 18 years. Monroe announced his retirement in December.

Wilder is well known in music circles in the San Francisco Bay Area. He was the founding director of education with acclaimed vocal ensemble Chanticleer, where he served also as artistic administrator and assistant music director during a 13-year period while singing with the ensemble in more than 1,000 concerts around the world. He

launched the annual Chanticleer Youth Choral Festival for San Francisco Bay Area high school students, and led its nationwide *Singing in the Schools* program. He was associate director of the capital campaign for the Harman Center for the Arts in Washington, D.C., and was awarded a fellowship at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' DeVos Institute for Arts Management. As vice president of 21C Media Group public relations firm in New York, he represented clients including Yefim Bronfman, Susan Graham, Joyce DiDonato, Steven Stucky, and Jeremy Denk. Wilder has also consulted for artists and arts organizations, including Dallas Opera, the Grand Teton Music Festival and the YouTube Symphony Orchestra. He was executive director of communications for the Eastman School of Music, and most recently was the founding artistic and executive director with Sing With Haiti, a not-for-profit organization supporting the Holy Trinity Music School in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

"Philip Wilder was the unanimous choice of our board and music director to take on the role of executive director," said Salkind. "His breadth of experience, his many accomplishments as a leader and consultant to arts organizations, his fundraising and public relations experience, and his longtime Bay Area musical background with Chanticleer are all vital assets that will guide the vision of New Century Chamber Orchestra as we evolve and grow in the years ahead."

"We owe a great debt and enormous thanks to Parker Monroe, our outgoing executive director, who is retiring after 18 years of creative and successful leadership of New Century Chamber Orchestra."

"Philip's background as a musician, his leadership experience with Chanticleer, and his professional guidance on behalf of so many classical music artists and organizations make him a perfect fit for New Century Chamber Orchestra," said Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg. "I'm excited to work together to create new opportunities for New Century Chamber Orchestra and to bring our music to more people, both here at home in the Bay Area and around the country."

"It is a great honor to be chosen as New Century Chamber Orchestra's next executive director, which brings me back to the city that gave me my start in music 24 years ago," Wilder said. "After 11 years of appointments in Washington, D.C., and New York City, I return home with a wealth of experiences in the field of music to share with one of San Francisco's most innovative arts organizations."

"I have been a fan of the New Century Chamber Orchestra since its early concerts in San Francisco in the 1990s. Since then, I have been a proud observer of the orchestra's growing national and international reputation under the leadership of Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg. I look forward to joining with Nadja, the staff and board of New Century to lead the orchestra in the next chapter of its illustrious career."

ABOUT PHILIP WILDER

Philip Wilder is a classical music industry specialist with 24 years of multifaceted experience as an artistic programmer, administrator, educator, fundraiser, marketer, PR consultant, recording producer, and musician in the not-for-profit and corporate classical music industry. He was appointed as executive director of New Century Chamber Orchestra in San Francisco in July 2014. A graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy (major in piano and organ), the Eastman School of Music (Bachelor of Music in organ performance), and the DeVos Institute for Arts Management, Wilder began his

professional career as a member of the San Francisco-based vocal ensemble Chanticleer, where he became artistic administrator, assistant music director and founding director of education.

During his 13-year association with Chanticleer, he performed as a countertenor in more than 1,000 concerts worldwide, and fostered collaborations with many composers and performers, including Sir John Tavener, Frederica von Stade and Dawn Upshaw. His 14 recordings for Warner Classics and Chanticleer Records garnered four Grammy nominations and two Grammy Awards. As Chanticleer's founding director of education, he developed and implemented programs for music students in San Francisco and across America, including its *Singing in the Schools* program and the Chanticleer Youth Choral Festival, an annual event for San Francisco Bay Area high school students. Wilder also served as Chanticleer's spokesperson, appearing on CBS, NBC, NPR, and other prominent national news outlets.

After leaving Chanticleer, Wilder took a position as associate director of the capital campaign for the Harman Center for the Arts in Washington, D.C., and was awarded a fellowship at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' DeVos Institute for Arts Management. While there, he managed the first American tour of the Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra for the United States Department of State, and collaborated with Kennedy Center President Michael Kaiser on an instructional workbook for strategic planning for emerging arts organizations.

In 2005, Wilder joined 21C Media Group, the New York-based independent public relations, marketing, and consulting firm specializing in classical music and the performing arts. In 2012, he was named executive director of communications for the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester.

During his seven years with 21C Media Group, Wilder developed an impressive roster of clients, including Grammy Award-winners Yefim Bronfman, Susan Graham, and Joyce DiDonato; Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Steven Stucky; and MacArthur "genius" Jeremy Denk. He also advised organizations, including the Dallas Opera, the Grand Teton Music Festival and the YouTube Symphony Orchestra. In 2009, founding partner Albert Imperato named Wilder vice president of 21C Media Group.

Currently residing in San Francisco, Wilder continues to consult for artists and arts organizations, and is a producer of new media content for *Music Makes a City*, a PBS documentary film and arts advocacy project produced by Owsley Brown Presents. He also served as the founding artistic and executive director of Sing With Haiti, a not-for-profit organization supporting the ongoing operations and rebuilding of the Holy Trinity Music School in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

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.

In seventeen concerts around the Bay Area in 2014-15, beginning September 11, New Century performs a wide range of repertoire spanning four centuries, including Stravinsky's *Pulcinella Suite*, Mahler's transcription of the Schubert String Quartet D. 810 "Death and the Maiden," Brahms' Sextet for Strings in Bb Major, Mozart's Divertimento K. 136, and Arvo Pärt's *Fratres*. Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg takes the stage as soloist for Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* in a program that features a variety of holiday classics and a first-time collaboration with the San Francisco Girls Chorus. The orchestra also makes its first appearance at Sonoma State University's Weill Hall. Another major season highlight is a rare Bay Area appearance by retiring New York Philharmonic concertmaster Glenn Dicterow, invited by Salerno-Sonnenberg to lead the March set of concerts.

In addition to performing classic pieces of chamber orchestra repertoire, New Century commissions important new works, breathes new life into rarely heard jewels of the past, and performs world premieres. Through the New Century Chamber Orchestra Featured Composer program, the orchestra commissions composers to write new works, with the goals of expanding chamber orchestra repertoire and providing audiences with a deeper understanding of today's living composers. The orchestra provides insight into the breadth of the Featured Composer's work by performing a variety of pieces by the composer throughout the season. New Century's 2014/15 Featured Composer is Derek Bermel, a virtuoso clarinetist and composer. Bermel performs on the season opening program in September and returns later in the season to introduce his new commissioned work for string orchestra.

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 ensemble has been broadcast a total of 21 times on American Public Media's Performance Today, with each broadcast heard on 260 radio stations across the country.

The orchestra has released seven compact discs. The most recent, *From A to Z: 21st Century Concertos*, is a compilation of four of New Century's live world premiere performances of its newly commissioned works, with Salerno-Sonnenberg as soloist in music by William Bolcom, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, Clarice Assad and Michael Daugherty. It was released in May 2014 on the NSS Music label. 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. Paola di Florio, director of *Speaking in Strings*, the 1999 Academy Award-nominated film about Salerno-Sonnenberg, filmed it.

The CDs *LIVE: Barber, Strauss, Mahler*, released in November 2010, and *Together*, released in August 2009, were also recorded with Salerno-Sonnenberg and released 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.

ABOUT NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, an internationally-acclaimed violin soloist and chamber musician best known for her exhilarating performances and passionate interpretations, joined the New Century Chamber Orchestra in January 2008 as music director. The 2014-15 season is her seventh with the string orchestra. Nadja's first six seasons were hailed as a tremendous success by audiences and critics alike – “a marriage that works,” in her words, and renewing 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 includes Salerno-Sonnenberg, pianist Anne-Marie McDermott, horn player John Cerminaro, pianist/composer Clarice Assad, conductor Marin Alsop, the American String Quartet, the Colorado Symphony, Orquestra Sinfonica do Estado de Sao Paulo and the New Century Chamber Orchestra. *Together*, the first CD with New Century, features Astor Piazzolla's *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*. The second CD, a live recording featuring Strauss's *Metamorphosen*, Barber's *Adagio for Strings* and Mahler's *Adagietto* from Symphony No. 5, has been praised as “brilliant” (*Oregon Music News*), and *allmusic.com* advised, “For those who like orchestral music for strings that takes nothing less than revelation as its goal, this is a must-have.”

Nadja 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 1999, she was honored with the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize. Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg was born in Rome and immigrated to the United States at the age of eight to study at The Curtis Institute of Music. She later studied with Dorothy DeLay at The Juilliard School. For more information on Nadja, please visit www.nadjasalernosonnenberg.com and www.nssmusic.com.

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