

# New Century Chamber Orchestra

NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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**Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and New Century Chamber Orchestra pair with San Francisco Girls Chorus in their first collaboration, performing five holiday concerts December 12 and December 18-21**

**New Century and San Francisco Girls Chorus make debut at Green Music Center at Sonoma State University December 12**



(l to r: Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, New Century Chamber Orchestra, and Lisa Bielawa.  
Photo credits: Kristin Hoeberrmann, Matthew Washburn, and Liz Linder.)

**San Francisco, October 17, 2014** – Music Director [Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg](#) and the [New Century Chamber Orchestra](#) welcome the holiday season with a program of beloved classical favorites and traditional Christmas carols December 12 and December 18-21, featuring Salerno-Sonnenberg as soloist in Vivaldi's *Winter* from *The Four Seasons* and the ensemble's first collaboration with the [San Francisco Girls Chorus](#). December 12 marks New Century's debut at Weill Hall in Green Music Center at Sonoma State University.

The December concert program, which New Century will also perform in San Francisco, Berkeley, Palo Alto, and San Rafael, features the orchestra with the San Francisco Girls Chorus in Mozart's *Engel Gottes Künden*, John Rutter's *Nativity Carol*, Handel's *Hallelujah* and *For unto us a child is born* from *Messiah*, and a medley of Christmas carols, arranged by former Featured Composer Clarice Assad. The chorus, under the artistic direction of [Lisa Bielawa](#), will perform Vaughan Williams' "Winter" from *Folksongs of the Four Seasons* and Cesar Antonovich Cui's *Radiant Stars*. The program will also feature the orchestra in Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* from *Solomon*, and Corelli's Concerto Grosso in G minor, *Christmas Concerto*.

Concerts take place Friday, December 12 at 7:30 pm at Weill Hall at Green Music Center in Rohnert Park; Thursday, December 18 at 8 pm at First Congregational Church in Berkeley; Friday, December 19 at 8 pm at First United Methodist Church in Palo Alto; Saturday, December 20 at 8 pm at Nourse Auditorium in San Francisco, and Sunday, December 21 at 5 pm at the Osher Marin Jewish Community Center in San Rafael.

New Century's collaboration with San Francisco Girls Chorus is the latest in its expanding circle of diverse and distinguished musical guests. This season, Featured Composer Derek Bermel performed four concerts with the orchestra in September and is writing a newly commissioned work to be performed in May 2015. Former longtime New York Philharmonic Concertmaster Glenn Dicterow leads the orchestra in four concerts in March 2015. During the 2013-14 season, the orchestra performed two highly-successful first time collaborations: *Atlantic Crossing* with Chanticleer, and Donizetti's one-act opera *Rita* with San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows Efrain Solis, Maria Valdes, and Thomas Glenn.

Tickets for the December 18-21 concerts are \$29 to \$61 and can be purchased on the New Century website at [www.ncco.org](http://www.ncco.org), through City Box Office at [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com), or by calling (415) 392-4400. Discounted \$15 single tickets are available for patrons under 35. Open Rehearsal tickets are \$8 general admission and can be purchased through City Box Office.

Tickets for the December 12 Green Music Center concert are \$35 to \$85 and are available at <http://qmc.sonoma.edu/>.

### **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.

In seventeen concerts around the Bay Area in 2014-15, 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*. 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: 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg is an internationally-acclaimed violin soloist and chamber musician best known for her exhilarating performances and passionate interpretations. The 2014-15 season with New Century is her seventh as music director 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 the *San Jose Mercury News*.

A powerful and innovative presence on the recording scene, Salerno-Sonnenberg showcases the musicianship of talented artists through her recording label, NSS Music. Her label's projects

including recordings by pianist Anne-Marie McDermott, horn player John Cerminaro, pianist/composer Clarice Assad, Marin Alsop, the American String Quartet, the Colorado Symphony and Orquestra Sinfonica do Estado de Sao Paulo as well as the New Century Chamber Orchestra.

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, visit [www.nadjasalernosonnenberg.com](http://www.nadjasalernosonnenberg.com) and <http://www.nssmusic.com>.

## **ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO GIRLS CHORUS**

For more than 30 years, the [San Francisco Girls Chorus](#) (SFGC) has been recognized as one of the world's most respected vocal ensembles. Led by Artistic Director Lisa Bielawa, its level of training, performance, quality, range, and leadership in commissioning music for treble voices are lauded by musicians, critics, and audiences.

The San Francisco Girls Chorus was founded in 1978 and has become a regional center for choral music education and performance for girls and young women ages 5-18. Four hundred singers from 45 Bay Area cities participate in this internationally recognized program, deemed "a model in the country for training girls' voices" by the California Arts Council. The organization consists of a professional level performance, recording and touring ensemble and the Alumnae Chorus; the four-level Chorus School training program, supervised by Director Elizabeth Avakian; and a Preparatory Chorus for 5-7 year olds.

SFGC has won many honors, including the prestigious Margaret Hillis Award and two ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming in 1999, 2004 and 2011. The Girls Chorus is invited annually to perform with musical organizations including San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Symphony, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, and others. SFGC's 30th Anniversary season, 2008-2009, culminated in a performance in President Barack Obama's swearing-in ceremony, and a debut concert at Alice Tully Hall at New York's Lincoln Center. The Chorus has been honored to sing at many national and international venues, including the World Choral Symposium in Kyoto, Japan in 2005. SFGC has been featured at the American Choral Directors Association Western Division Convention in Salt Lake City and represented North America in the prestigious World Vision Children's Choir Festival in Seoul, Korea, and in the Gateway to Music Festival at the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing.

The Chorus School offers a program of unparalleled excellence, designed to take young girls from their first introduction to the art of choral singing through a full course of choral/vocal instruction. This comprehensive music education includes the study and development of choral artistry, vocal technique, music theory, music history, and performing style. The discipline, teamwork, and concentration young girls learn in the Chorus School rehearsals and performances instill in them the values necessary for high achievement in music and in life.

SFGC's discography continues to grow with a 2-disc set entitled *Heaven and Earth*. The music represents some of the greatest sacred and secular repertoire ever written for treble voices. Other recordings include: *Voices of Hope and Peace*, a recording with many exciting SFGC commissions; *Christmas*, featuring diverse holiday selections; *Crossroads*, a collection of world folk music; and *Music from the Venetian Ospedali*, a disc of Italian Baroque music of which *The New Yorker* described the Chorus as "tremendously accomplished." The Chorus can also be heard on several San Francisco Symphony recordings, including five Grammy® Award-winners.

## **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

## Performers

**New Century Chamber Orchestra, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg**, music director and soloist  
**San Francisco Girls Chorus, Lisa Bielawa**, artistic director

***Holiday Favorites* with New Century Chamber Orchestra and the San Francisco Girls Chorus**

**December 12 and 18-21, 2014**

## Dates and Venues

Friday, December 12, 2014, 7:30 p.m. in Joan and Stanford I. Weill Hall, Green Music Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park

Open Rehearsal: Wednesday, December 17, 10 a.m., Kanbar Performing Arts Center, 44 Page St., San Francisco

Thursday, December 18, 8 pm, First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Friday, December 19, 8 pm, First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto

Saturday, December 20, 8 pm, Nourse Auditorium, 275 Hayes Street, San Francisco

Sunday, December 21, 5 pm, Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, 200 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael

## Program

**Handel: *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* from *Solomon***

**Corelli: Concerto Grosso in G minor, Op. 6, No. 8, "Christmas Concerto"**

**Vivaldi: *The Four Seasons: Winter***

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, *violin*

**Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G major, BWV 1048**

**Rutter: *Nativity Carol*** (New Century Chamber Orchestra with SF Girls Chorus)

**Mozart: *Engel Gottes Künden*** (New Century Chamber Orchestra with SF Girls Chorus)

**Handel: *Messiah: For Unto Us a Child is Born* and *Hallelujah*** (arr. Clarice Assad) (New Century Chamber Orchestra with SF Girls Chorus)

**Vaughan Williams: *Folksongs of the Four Seasons: Winter*** (San Francisco Girls Chorus)

**Cesar Antonovich Cui: *Radiant Stars*** (San Francisco Girls Chorus)

**Medley of Christmas and holiday carols** (Traditional; arr. Clarice Assad) (New Century Chamber Orchestra w/ SF Girls Chorus)

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

For more information, to arrange interviews, for copies of New Century's latest CD, *From A to Z*, or for high-resolution photos, please email Jean Shirk at [jean@shirkmedia.com](mailto:jean@shirkmedia.com), call 510-332-4195, or visit <http://ncco.org/about/14-15-press-news/>.

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