



NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Contact: Maura Lafferty
415.357.1111, ext.308 / mlafferty@ncco.org

WILLIAM BOLCOM VISITS BAY AREA FOR TWO WORLD PREMIERES, MAY 2-9

April 23, 2010 – Music Director **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg** and the **New Century Chamber Orchestra** present the world premiere of a violin concerto, *Romanza*, commissioned from Pulitzer-winning composer **William Bolcom**, May 6-9. The full program includes Copland's *Appalachian Spring* in the original version for 13 instruments, the *Hoe-Down* from *Rodeo*, and Barber's *Adagio for Strings*.

The program will be given on four different evenings in four locations around the Bay Area: **Thursday, May 6** at 8pm, at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley, **Friday, May 7** at 8pm, at the First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto, **Saturday, May 8** at 8pm, at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco, and **Sunday, May 9** at 5 pm at the Osher Marin Jewish Community Center in San Rafael. An open rehearsal will be held on **Tuesday, May 4** at 10am in Berkeley.

Additionally, William Bolcom visits Stanford University on **Sunday, May 2**, as the A. Jess Shenson Recital Series presents the world premiere of *Billy in the Darbies*. Baritone **Stephen Salters** and the **Lark Quartet** will perform the new work, based on a Herman Melville text, in addition to works by Ruehr, Wiprud and Gershwin. Mr. Bolcom was the first conferee of a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stanford University.

The New Century Chamber Orchestra, founded in 1992, looks for fresh, exciting ways to present classical music in the San Francisco Bay Area by combining performances of extraordinary quality with innovative programming. Once called "the best-kept secret in San Francisco" by Sir Simon Rattle, the group's partnership with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg has drawn enormous interest in the classical music industry, from Bay Area audiences, and from national radio listeners on a variety of formats.

Preparing for her third season at the helm, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg has energized the orchestra, continuing the collaborative legacy that results in breath-taking performances of remarkable precision, passion and power. Her leadership brought the ensemble recognition in the San Francisco Chronicle's Best of Classical Music 2009, and in the March 2010 edition of *Gramophone Magazine*. For more information, please visit www.ncco.org.

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, an internationally-acclaimed soloist and chamber musician for more than 25 years, was named Music Director and Concertmaster of the New Century Chamber Orchestra in January 2008. Her 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. For more information, please visit <http://www.nadjasalernosonnenberg.com/> or <http://www.nssmusic.com/>.

William Bolcom, one of the most versatile contemporary American composers of chamber, operatic, vocal, choral, cabaret, ragtime, and symphonic music, is a recipient of the National Medal of Arts, Pulitzer Prize, and multiple Grammy Awards. As a composer, Bolcom has written four violin sonatas, eight symphonies, four operas, several musical theater works, eleven string quartets, and the Grammy Award-winning *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, based on the poetry of William Blake.

Bolcom chooses to set pieces about American characters by American authors and includes idioms such as ragtime and jazz. In addition to this wide stylistic diversity, his music often displays a trenchant sense of humor, on display in pieces such as the song “Lime Jello Marshmallow Cottage Cheese Surprise.” He is also a noted performer, and has performed and recorded his own work frequently in collaboration with his wife and musical partner, mezzo-soprano Joan Morris. For more information, please visit <http://www.williambolcom.com/>.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE

New Century Chamber Orchestra
Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Music Director

Samuel Barber: Adagio for Strings

William Bolcom: *Romanza* violin concerto (World Premiere)

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, violin

Aaron Copland: *Appalachian Spring* (original version)

Aaron Copland: *Hoe-Down* from *Rodeo*

Rehearsal: Tue, May 4 at 10am, First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley
Thu, May 6, 2010 at 8pm, First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley
Fri, May 7, 2010, at 8pm, First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto
Sat, May 8, 2010 at 8pm, Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco
Sun, May 9, 2010 at 5pm, Osher Marin JCC, 200 N. San Pedro Rd, San Rafael

Tickets are \$32-\$54, with discounts for patrons aged 30 and under. The open rehearsal is \$8 general admission. Full details are online: <http://ncco.org/seatoshiningsea.htm>.

Please also note: The A. Jess Shenson Recital Series at Stanford presents the world premiere of a new work by Pulitzer prize-winning composer William Bolcom on **Sunday, May 2**, at 2:30 pm in Campbell Recital Hall on the Stanford campus. Baritone Stephen Salters and the Lark Quartet will perform Bolcom’s *Billy in the Darbies*, in addition to works by Ruehr, Wiprud and Gershwin. William Bolcom will give a pre-concert lecture at 2 pm in Campbell Recital Hall. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Tickets may be purchased by calling 650.725.2787 or by visiting <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/shensonSeries.html>

Please visit <http://ncco.org/mediakit.htm> for full details, including high-resolution photographs, full-length biographies, and YouTube videos about the program.