

# New Century Chamber Orchestra

NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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**NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AND NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG  
RELEASE FIRST RECORDING ON AUGUST 11**

***Together* Features World Premiere Recording of Commissioned Work by Clarice Assad**

**NOW AVAILABLE FOR PRE-SALE**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (July 27, 2009) - The NEW CENTURY Chamber Orchestra and Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, who embark upon their second season together this September, are pleased to announce their first recording – *Together*, scheduled for release August 11 on NSS MUSIC.

*Together* features the world premiere recording of Brazilian composer Clarice Assad's *Impressions*. Assad was appointed as the ensemble's first Featured Composer under Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg's tenure, and the work was commissioned especially for the ensemble. *Together* also includes Piazzolla's *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*, Bartok's *Romanian Folk Dances*, and Gershwin's *Bess, You is My Woman Now*.

The disc was recorded in September 2008 and May 2009 at Skywalker Sound in Marin County, California. The tracks were mastered, engineered, and produced by David v.R. Bowles of Swineshead Productions.

Piazzolla's *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* were originally written as four separate pieces and reorchestrated in the 1990's for the violinist Gidon Kremer. Just now emerging as a tour de force in the violin literature, the works feature Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg as violin soloist who "played with ferocious beauty" in Joshua Kosman's San Francisco Chronicle review of the NEW CENTURY live performances in September of 2008. Bartok's virtuosic *Romanian Folk Dances* gets a colorful twist in this recording, where Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg has adjusted the original orchestration to offer solos to NEW CENTURY musicians in various sections. This joyful recording concludes with Gershwin's *Bess, You Is My Woman Now*, in David Rimelis'



orchestration of Jascha Heifetz's arrangement for violin and piano, featuring Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg as the soloist and 'violin voice' of Porgy.

NEW CENTURY Chamber Orchestra and Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg have ignited a frisson of excitement with their new artistic partnership, praised by critics and applauded by audiences throughout the Bay Area. Defying economic trends, ticket sales for NEW CENTURY have increased 52%, subscription renewal rates have jumped to 75%, and individual contributions have increased by 74%. NEW CENTURY has been featured twice in 2009 on American Public Media's "Performance Today," with live recordings of the Piazzolla and Assad airing nationally.

Together is the fifth recording made by the NEW CENTURY Chamber Orchestra. Previous recordings include *Written with The Heart's Blood*, a disc of Shostakovich works which was nominated for a Grammy in 1997, as well as discs featuring the music of Swiss composer Frank Martin, Argentine composers Alberto Williams and Alberto Ginastera, and Kurt Rohde.

One of the most prominent violinists of our time, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg is also a powerful and innovative presence on the recording scene with over 20 recordings to her credit. Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg is also the founder of her own record label, NSS MUSIC, which she started in 2005. It is the next step in the natural evolution of a "breakhtakingly daring and original" musician's career and one of very few labels both founded and run by a professional performing musician. NSS Music releases recordings of new and established works by musicians across the musical genres, with a special emphasis on live performances.

For further information, please contact NEW CENTURY Chamber Orchestra at (415) 357-1111.

Full details and purchasing information about the recording are available at <http://www.nssmusic.com>.

Videos about the collaboration, recording, and upcoming concerts are available at <http://www.youtube.com/nccosf>.

For more information about Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, please visit <http://www.nadjasalernosonnenberg.com/>.

New Century Chamber Orchestra season information, tickets, and contact information is available at <http://www.ncco.org>. High resolution photos are available at <http://www.ncco.org/mediakit.htm>.

### **About The New Century Chamber Orchestra**

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. World-renowned violin soloist, chamber musician and recording artist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg joined the 19-member string ensemble as Music Director and Concertmaster in January 2008. NEW CENTURY, comprised of local musicians as well as those who travel from across the U.S. and Europe to perform in the Bay Area together, performs without a conductor. Musical decisions are made collaboratively, resulting in an

enhanced level of commitment on the part of the musicians to concerts of remarkable precision, passion and power.

Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg's second season as Music Director features William Bolcom as 2009-2010 Featured Composer, with a world premiere of his new violin concerto in May 2010. Several talented Bay Area artists will join the orchestra this season, including rising star tenor Brian Thorsett. As part of its dedication to the future of music and to the community, NEW CENTURY provides violin lessons to underserved students in Marin City and San Rafael's Canal District and string quartets of NEW CENTURY members give intimate classroom performances in Bay Area elementary schools.

### **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Music Director**

Electrifying performances, fearless interpretations and musical depth have established violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg as one of the leading violinists of our time. After a triumphant first season as Music Director of the NEW CENTURY Chamber Orchestra, Nadja leads this 19-member string orchestra in four subscription series for the 2009-10 season, including the world premiere commission of Bolcom's Romanza violin concerto as mentioned above.

Nadja appears during the 2009-10 season as soloist with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Madison Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Austin Symphony Orchestra, New World Symphony Orchestra, Chattanooga Symphony, Lexington Philharmonic, Long Island Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony Orchestra and San Antonio Symphony. She is joined once again by pianist and collaborator Anne-Marie McDermott for recitals throughout the season.

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 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 Masters of Musical Arts from the New Mexico State University, the first honorary degree the University has ever awarded. 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. She later studied with Dorothy DeLay at The Juilliard School.