

New Century Chamber Orchestra

NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PRESENTS NEW ARRANGEMENT OF
MUSSORGSKY'S MASTERPIECE, PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION
Program Features Unusual Arrangements of Familiar Works by Bach

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (August 24, 2009) - Music Director [Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg](#) and the [New Century Chamber Orchestra](#) (New Century) breathe new life into beloved classics, September 10-13, 2009, with a program featuring new interpretations of two works by Johann Sebastian Bach, and Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

Well-known for her innovation and enthusiasm for new music, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg has brought a variety of new pieces to the New Century Chamber Orchestra's repertoire. "There are certain works that I simply want to play with this amazing ensemble," she states. "I like to call this program 'Music that wasn't written for you.'"

Mussorgsky's classic is presented in a newly-commissioned arrangement from Clarice Assad, for string orchestra with piano and percussion. Bay Area local Mark Starr arranged the Chaconne from Partita No. 2 for Violin in the spirit of Bach's numerous transcriptions and re-arrangements of his own works. As the centerpiece of the program, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg takes center stage with Bach's Harpsichord Concerto in D minor, BWV 1052, transcribed for violin and orchestra by Robert Reitz.

Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg, among the world's best-loved and most sought-after violin soloists, was named Music Director in 2008 in the midst of a long and successful career. Her presence has invigorated the New Century community, with ticket sales increased 52% from the year previous, subscription renewal rates up to 75%, and the number of individual contributions up by 74%. New Century recently released their first recording with Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg, *Together*, which hit stores on August 11 to critical and popular acclaim.

Pictures at an Exhibition: New Traditions
September 10-13, 2009

Bach (arr. Starr): Chaconne (from Partita No. 2 for Violin, BWV 1004)

Bach (arr. Reitz): Concerto for Violin in D minor (transcribed from BWV 1052)

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, violin

Mussorgsky (arr. Assad): *Pictures at an Exhibition*

Thursday, September 10 at 8pm, First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Friday, September 11 at 8pm, First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto
Saturday, September 12 at 8pm, Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco
Sunday, September 13 at 5pm, Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, 200 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael

Ticket Information

Season subscriptions for the orchestra's four sets of concerts in San Francisco, Berkeley, Palo Alto and San Rafael are on sale now through New Century at www.ncco.org and 415.357.1111 or through City Box Office at www.cityboxoffice.com and 415.392.4400. Four-concert series subscriptions range from \$116 to \$188 (half-price for those 30 and under). A four-concert premiere box subscription, including a visit with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and valet parking, is also available for \$400, exclusively at Herbst Theatre. Individual concert tickets are \$32 to \$54 (half price for those 30 and under). Premiere box single tickets at Herbst Theatre are available for \$125.

About The New Century Chamber Orchestra

[The New Century Chamber Orchestra](http://www.ncco.org), 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.

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. String quartets of New Century members give intimate classroom performances in Bay Area elementary schools.

The orchestra has released five compact discs, including the new disc *Together*, featuring Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg as Music Director and soloist. *Written With The Heart's Blood*, a recording of Shostakovich works, was nominated for a Grammy Award in 1997. The orchestra has also recorded the music of 20th century Swiss composer Frank Martin, Argentine composers Alberto Williams and Alberto Ginastera, and Kurt Rohde. For more information, please visit www.ncco.org.

About Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg

Uniquely gifted and creative violin virtuoso Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg continues to bring joy to audiences whether from the stage, the TV screen, or the internet. Innovative, sharp and witty, she is truly an artist whose impact on the world of classical music is as deep as her love for the art.

An internationally-acclaimed soloist and chamber musician for more than 25 years, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg was named Music Director and Concertmaster of the New Century Chamber Orchestra in January 2008. Nadja's debut with the orchestra was in September 2007, when energy, excitement, and pure joy filled the air as the musicians excelled in a program of Bach, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky and Kreisler. The violinist's natural leadership, together with the ensemble's artistic excellence made for an evening to remember, thus opening the door for future collaboration. Her first season as Music Director, 2008-2009, was hailed as a tremendous success by audiences and critics alike – “a marriage that works,” in her words.

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 already features several discs by Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg and her collaborators, including pianist Anne-Marie McDermott and multi-talented musician and composer Clarice Assad. 2009 features the release in April of *Originis*, recorded by Nadja and the Assad brothers, Sergio and Odair, and in August of her first CD with the New Century Chamber Orchestra, featuring Astor Piazzolla's *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*.

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. 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. For more information, please visit <http://www.nadjasalernosonnenberg.com/> or <http://www.nssmusic.com/>.

More Information

For more press information, or to request an interview with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, or New Century guest artists, please contact Maura Lafferty, Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator, at 415.357.1111, ext. 308, or mlafferty@ncco.org. Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg offers a video introduction to the program on our website: <http://www.ncco.org/pictures.htm>. High-resolution photos are available at www.ncco.org/mediakit.htm.