



NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG
MUSIC DIRECTOR

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NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA LAUNCHES TWO NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES TO COINCIDE WITH MARCH CONCERTS

February 10, 2010 – Music Director **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg** and the **New Century Chamber Orchestra** announced two new community engagement initiatives in conjunction with their March concert program, *Serenades and Dances*. New Century will hold an **open rehearsal** at the Herbst Theatre, 10am, **Wednesday, March 3**, and will collect donations to 4 **Bay Area food banks** at each performance over course of the weekend.

The food drive, supporting the San Francisco, Jewish Family and Community Services, Alameda County, and Second Harvest Food Banks, is part of **Orchestras Feeding America 2010**, a nation-wide initiative organized by the League of American Orchestras.

The March 3 open rehearsal, the first that New Century has presented, will be a working session with concert soloists **Brian Thorsett** and **Kevin Rivard**. “Part of our mission is to make New Century’s music accessible to as many people as possible. Now more than ever, we want to reach more people at lower prices,” says Executive Director Parker Monroe. A second open rehearsal will follow in May.

The concert program features Benjamin Britten’s **Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings**, along with works by Hugo Wolf, Béla Bartók and Antonín Dvořák, and will be given on four different evenings in four locations around the Bay Area: **Thursday, March 4** at 8pm, at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley, **Friday, March 5** at 8pm, at the First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto, **Saturday, March 6** at 8pm, at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco, and **Sunday, March 7** at 5 pm, at the Osher Marin Jewish Community Center in San Rafael.

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 18-member string ensemble as Music Director and Concertmaster in January 2008. For more information, please visit www.ncco.org.

About Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg

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. 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/>.

Brian Thorsett, tenor

Since taking to the operatic stage in 2001, tenor and Britten enthusiast Brian Thorsett has been seen and heard in over 70 diverse operatic roles. In the summer of 2009, he studied and performed the *St. Matthew Passion* at the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme at the Aldeburgh Festival in England. An avid recitalist, Brian is a graduate of San Francisco Opera's Merola Program, and Glimmerglass Opera's Young American Artist program. For more information, please visit <http://ncco.org/thorsett.htm>.

Kevin Rivard, horn

Kevin Rivard, principal horn for the San Francisco Opera, studied at Juilliard, and during his sophomore year won the position of Assistant Principal Horn with The Florida Orchestra. Mr. Rivard's numerous awards include the Grand Prize and Audience Choice award at the 2008 Concours International d'Interprétation Musicale in Paris, France. For more information, please visit <http://www.kevinrivard.com> or <http://ncco.org/rivard.htm>.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE

Serenades and Dances

March 4-7, 2010

Wolf: Italian Serenade

Dvořák : Serenade for Strings

Britten: Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings, op. 31

Brian Thorsett, tenor

Kevin Rivard, horn

Bartók: Romanian Folk Dances

Open Rehearsal: Wed., March 3 at 10am, Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco
Thursday, March 4 at 8pm, First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley
Friday, March 5 at 8pm, First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto
Saturday, March 6 at 8 pm, Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco
Sunday, March 7 at 5 pm, Osher Marin JCC, 200 N. San Pedro Rd, San Rafael

Tickets are available through New Century at www.ncco.org and 415.357.1111. Concert tickets are \$32 to \$54, with premiere box single tickets available at Herbst Theatre for \$125. Open rehearsal tickets are \$8. All tickets are available through City Box Office, www.cityboxoffice.org or 415.392.4400. Patrons aged 30 and under can purchase concert tickets for half-price. Canned goods and donations collected at each performance for local food banks.

Please visit <http://ncco.org/mediakit.htm> for full details, including new high-resolution photographs, full-length biographies, and a short video introducing the program.

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