



NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG
MUSIC DIRECTOR

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

NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG LEADS THE NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA IN MUSIC OF WILLIAM BOLCOM AND RICHARD STRAUSS

October 13, 2009 – Music Director **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg** introduces 2009-2010 Featured Composer **William Bolcom** to the New Century Chamber Orchestra and Bay Area audiences, **November 19-22**. The program demonstrates the variety of his compositional style, including three of Mr. Bolcom's most famous rags arranged for strings. Concluding with **Richard Strauss' *Metamorphosen***, this program features works that are at once modern, elegant, and beautiful. **Laura Griffiths**, acting principal oboe of the San Francisco Opera, will join the orchestra for Bolcom's *Serenata Notturna*, originally composed for Richard Woodhams of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

The program will be given on four different evenings in four locations around the Bay Area: **Thursday, Nov. 19** at 8pm, at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley, **Friday, Nov. 20** at 8pm, at the First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto, **Saturday, Nov. 21** at 8pm, at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco, and **Sunday, Nov. 22** at 5 pm at the Osher Marin Jewish Community Center in San Rafael.

The New Century Chamber Orchestra Featured Composer Program commissions composers to write new works, with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg as Music Director, concertmaster, and muse. Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg and the orchestra established this program to perform new works, expand the chamber orchestra repertoire, and introduce Bay Area audiences to a variety of living composers.

The second artist to be featured by the New Century Chamber Orchestra is National Medal of Arts, Pulitzer Prize, and Grammy Award-winner William Bolcom, one of the most versatile contemporary American composers of chamber, operatic, vocal, choral, cabaret, ragtime, and symphonic music. Mr. Bolcom has written four violin sonatas, eight symphonies, four operas (*McTeague*, *A View from the Bridge*, *A Wedding*, and *Lucrezia*), several works for musical theater, eleven string quartets, and the Grammy Award-winning *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, based on the poetry of William Blake.

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the New Century Chamber Orchestra's collaboration with Mr. Bolcom reflects the variety of his compositional career, including three of the rags that introduced Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg to his music. Both the *Serenata Notturna*, to be performed in November 2009, and the new work for violin soloist and orchestra, *Romanza*, to be premiered in May 2010, reflect Mr. Bolcom's recent interest in composing music that demonstrates "classical restraint with a romantic heart beating inside."

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 17-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 musicians give intimate classroom performances in Bay Area elementary schools.

The orchestra has released five compact discs, including *Together*, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg's first recording with the orchestra as Music Director. *Written With The Heart's Blood*, a recording of Shostakovich works, was nominated for a Grammy Award in 1997. 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 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 Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg's *Merry, Nadja*, and *Live*, as well as Anne-Marie McDermott's *Bach*, and John Cerminaro's *John Cerminaro, A Life of Music*. Last year marked the release of NSS Music's first jazz album, entitled *Love, All That It Is*, featuring The Clarice Assad Trio. 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*. An ever-evolving and creative project, NSS Music will continue to bring forth unique performances from many musical genres.

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 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/>.

Laura Griffiths, oboe

Laura Griffiths is Principal Oboe of the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra, Acting Principal Oboe of the San Francisco Opera, and was Principal Oboe of the Cleveland Orchestra. She has served as Acting Associate Principal Oboe of the San Francisco Symphony, Principal Oboe of the Rochester Philharmonic, and has been guest Principal Oboe with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Boston Symphony, Saint Louis Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, and St. Paul Chamber Orchestras.

Laura Griffiths received a Bachelor of Music and Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music, where she was a student of Richard Killmer. She recently recorded a solo CD to be released on Boston Records.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE

William Bolcom: *Serenata Notturna* for Oboe & Strings
Laura Griffiths, oboe

William Bolcom: *Three Rags* for String Quartet

Richard Strauss: *Metamorphosen* for 23 solo strings

Thursday, Nov. 19 at 8pm, First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Friday, Nov. 20 at 8pm, First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto

Saturday, Nov. 21 at 8pm, Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

Sunday, Nov. 22 at 5 pm, Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, 200 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael

Subscriptions to the remainder of the season are available through New Century at www.ncco.org and 415.357.1111, starting at just \$87. Individual concert tickets are \$32 to \$54. Premiere box single tickets are available at Herbst Theatre for \$125. All tickets are available through City Box Office, www.cityboxoffice.org or 415.392.4400. Patrons aged 30 and under can purchase subscriptions and single tickets for half-price.

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