

New Century Chamber Orchestra

NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG, MUSIC DIRECTOR

NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG AND THE NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCE 2010-2011 SEASON

MARK O'CONNOR NAMED FEATURED COMPOSER

FEBRUARY 2011 TOUR INCLUDES CONCERTS IN CLEVELAND, CHICAGO, AND LOS ANGELES

NEW LIVE RECORDING SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE IN OCTOBER 2010

San Francisco, CA – March 30, 2010 – Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the New Century Chamber Orchestra announce the 2010-2011 season, their third season together, and the ensemble's 19th. Named among the San Francisco Chronicle's 2009 "Best of Classical Music," New Century presents a four-program subscription series during the 2010-2011 season, four open rehearsals, and a seven-destination tour of the Midwest and California, with a special gala kick-off in January 2011.

Following the tradition that Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg established during her first season, the ensemble has named Mark O'Connor as featured composer for next season, and has commissioned a world premiere work from him to be performed in the spring of 2011. A composer, violinist and collaborator, Mark O'Connor will also perform as a soloist on a program with three of his works, including *Appalachia Waltz*. Mr. O'Connor's visit to the Bay Area will include a week-long string education workshop based on his new violin method.

The season opens September 23 with concerts featuring double bass legend Edgar Meyer, who performs Bottesini and one of his own compositions. Soprano Melody Moore joins Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and New Century in March for an evening devoted to Schubert, including lieder arranged for strings and Schubert's Cello Quintet D. 956 in a rarely-performed arrangement for chamber orchestra.

"New Century is a virtuoso group – in a way, it is more like a group of fabulous solo players who come together to play orchestral and chamber music. I am so honored to be an advocate for this wonderful ensemble," says Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg. "I am particularly excited that we will get a chance to partner with some amazing guests, including Edgar Meyer and Mark O'Connor, two of my long-time friends and colleagues. I've seen audiences just blown away by Edgar Meyer's virtuosity. And Mark is such an incredible, multi-talented string player, composer, and master educator."

The New Century Chamber Orchestra will embark on a tour of the Midwest and California on February 1, 2011, in collaboration with Opus 3 Artists. The tour will start in Cleveland, OH, at

the Cleveland Museum of Art, and end on February 12, 2011 in Davis, CA, at the Mondavi Center for Performing Arts. Destinations in the tour include Granville, OH, Ann Arbor, MI, Evanston, IL, Santa Monica, and San Diego. The tour is underwritten, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Closer to home, the New Century Chamber Orchestra will present a tour kick-off at Herbst Theatre, January 29 at 8pm. The program will feature the tour repertoire, including audience favorite *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* by Astor Piazzolla, and Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings, which was "marked by vigorous rhythms, dramatic urgency and a freewheeling, spontaneous approach" in Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg's first performance with the orchestra, according to Joshua Kosman of the San Francisco Chronicle.

The New Century Chamber Orchestra and Nadja Salerno Sonnenberg will release their second recording together on NSS Music in October of 2010 featuring three pieces, recorded live at concerts in 2009 and 2010. Full repertoire details will be announced at a later date. "Our 2010 record release will demonstrate New Century's artistry in a completely new light," says Executive Director Parker Monroe. "Each track on the album will be recorded live, providing a very different listening experience, and the pieces chosen will reflect the mastery of this extraordinary group of musicians." The ensemble's first recording with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg as Music Director, *Together*, was released in August of 2009 and hailed as "a testament to the unanimity and cohesiveness with which these artists have joined forces" by Gramophone Magazine.

The New Century Chamber Orchestra, one of only a handful of conductor-less ensembles in the world, was founded in 1992. Musical decisions are made collaboratively by the 18-member string ensemble, made up of local musicians and those who travel from across the U.S. and Europe to perform together. World-renowned violin soloist, chamber musician and recording artist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg joined the ensemble as Music Director and Concertmaster in January 2008, bringing "a new sense of vitality and determination, as well as an audacious swagger that is an unmistakable fingerprint of its leader," according to Gramophone Magazine.

As part of its dedication to the future of music and to the community which especially nurtured the organization in its early days in Marin County, New Century provides violin lessons to underserved students in Marin City and San Rafael's Canal District. String quartets of New Century members also give intimate classroom presentations in Bay Area elementary schools.

The orchestra has released five compact discs. *Together*, released in August 2009, is the first album featuring Music Director and soloist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg. *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.

Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, an internationally-acclaimed soloist and chamber musician for more than 25 years, joined the New Century Chamber Orchestra in January 2008. Nadja's first two seasons as Music Director were hailed as a tremendous success by audiences and critics alike – "a marriage that works," in her words, and renewing enthusiasm for "one of

the most burnished and exciting ensembles in the Bay Area,” according to Rich Scheinin of the San Jose Mercury News.

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* (a compilation of Christmas favorites, performed by Nadja and friends), *Nadja* (Tchaikovsky and Clarice Assad, violin concertos), and *Live* (Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and Anne-Marie McDermott). 2009 featured 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. 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/>.

Mark O’Connor, New Century’s 2010-2011 Featured Composer, a product of America’s rich aural folk tradition as well as classical and flamenco music, was inspired at the feet of folk fiddler and innovator who created the modern era of American fiddling in the 1940’s, Benny Thomasson, and French jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli. At age 47, he has melded and shaped these influences into a new American Classical music, and a vision of an entirely American school of string playing. As The Los Angeles Times warmly noted, he has “crossed over so many boundaries, that his style is purely personal.”

Mark O’Connor’s musical works have been embraced by a variety of performers and collaborators, including Yo-Yo Ma, Renee Fleming, The Eroica Trio, Sharon Isbin, Twyla Tharp Dance Co., the New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Mr. O’Connor regularly gives residencies, lectures, demonstrations, or teaches workshops at a variety of prestigious musical programs, at hosts including The Juilliard School of Music, Harvard, Rice University, Curtis Institute, Berklee College of Music, and Eastman School of Music. Mr. O’Connor is the founder and president of the internationally recognized Mark O’Connor Fiddle Camp and Strings Conference as well as the new Mark O’Connor String Camp and Institute. For more information, please visit <http://markoconnor.com>.

Edgar Meyer, in demand as both a performer and a composer, has formed a role in the music world unlike any other. Hailed by the New Yorker as “...the most remarkable virtuoso in the relatively unchronicled history of his instrument”, Mr. Meyer’s unparalleled technique and musicianship in combination with his gift for composition have brought him to the fore, where he is appreciated by a vast, varied audience. His uniqueness in the field was recognized by a MacArthur Award in 2002.

As a solo classical bassist, Mr. Meyer has released albums with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Joshua Bell, Chris Thile, and Yo-Yo Ma, as well as several solo CDs. As a composer, Mr. Meyer has premiered works with Bela Fleck, Zakir Hussain, Emanuel Ax, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Joshua Bell, Edo de Waart and the Minnesota Orchestra, the Emerson String Quartet, the Boston Symphony under Seiji Ozawa, and violinist Hilary Hahn with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra led by Hugh Wolff. Mr. Meyer began studying bass at the age of five under the instruction of his father and continued further to study with Stuart Sankey. In 1994 he received the Avery Fisher Career Grant and in 2000 became the only bassist to receive the Avery Fisher Prize. For more information, please visit <http://www.imgartists.com>.

Melody Moore, a recent Adler Fellow and former Merola Opera Program participant, graduated from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. She most recently performed the role of Mimi with the English National Opera in London with great success. Other performances have included Countess Almaviva and Mimi with San Francisco Opera, *Manon Lescaut* with New Orleans Opera, Mimi with Cleveland Opera and *Der Zwerg* and *Der zerbrochene Krug* with Los Angeles Opera as part of their Recovered Voices series.

Ms. Moore has also sung Donna Elvira at Lincoln Theatre in Napa Valley as well as the title role in *Suor Angelica* for the Opera Theatre and Musical Festival of Lucca, Italy. During her Adler Fellowship tenure, she sang the role of Governess in Britten's *Turn of the Screw* in Napa Valley and performed another Britten work, *Les Illuminations*, with the New Century Chamber Orchestra in Berkeley, Palo Alto and San Francisco. She looks forward to her first Donna Anna in a concert semi-staged version of *Don Giovanni* with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra in June of this year. For more information, please visit <http://www.melodymooresoprano.com/>.

Subscriptions to the New Century Chamber Orchestra are on sale now; subscription packages range from \$104 to \$176. Herbst Theatre subscribers may add pre-paid valet parking to one or more performances in the season, and all season subscribers receive the standard subscriber discount and priority seating for the Tour Kick-Off Concert. Call 415.357.1111 ext. 4 or email info@ncco.org to request a season brochure. Single tickets range in price from \$29 to \$49 and go on sale July 1 through City Box Office: www.cityboxoffice.com, 415.357.4400. Discounted single tickets are available for patrons under 35 and high school and college students with ID.

For more information, call the New Century Chamber Orchestra at 415.357.1111.

New Century Chamber Orchestra 2010-2011 Season Calendar

An Evening with Edgar Meyer September 23-26, 2010

Open rehearsal: Monday, September 20 at 10am, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco
Thursday, September 23 at 8pm, First Congregational Church of Berkeley
Friday, September 24 at 8pm, First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto
Saturday, September 25 at 8pm, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco
Sunday, September 26 at 5pm, Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, San Rafael

Bottesini: Concerto for String Bass No. 2 in B minor

Edgar Meyer, bass

Mahler: Adagietto from Symphony No. 5

Shostakovich (arr. Barshai): Chamber Symphony in C minor

Waltzing in Appalachia

November 18-21, 2010

Open rehearsal: Monday, November 15 at 10am, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Thursday, November 18 at 8pm, First Congregational Church of Berkeley

Friday, November 19 at 8pm, First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto

Saturday, November 20 at 8pm, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Sunday, November 21 at 5 pm, Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, San Rafael

Bach (arr. Sitkovetsky): Goldberg Variations

Mark O'Connor: Song of the Liberty Bell

Mark O'Connor: Strings and Threads

Mark O'Connor, violin

Mark O'Connor: Appalachia Waltz

Tour Kick-Off Concert

Open rehearsal: Monday, January 24 at 10am, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Saturday, January 29 at 8pm, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Piazzolla (arr. Desyatnikov): *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*

Tchaikovsky: Serenade for Strings in C major, op. 48

Tickets range in price from \$29 to \$49. Season subscribers may purchase discounted tickets and receive priority seating for this event. Valet parking is available for \$25.

Mastery of Schubert

March 24-27, 2011

Open rehearsal: Monday, March 21 at 10am, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Thursday, March 24 at 8pm, First Congregational Church of Berkeley

Friday, March 25 at 8pm, First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto

Saturday, March 26 at 8 pm, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Sunday, March 27 at 5 pm, Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, San Rafael

Schubert: Rondo in A Major for Violin and Strings
Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, violin

Schubert (arr. Assad): Lieder

An den Mond, D. 259

An den Mond, D. 296

Gretchen am Spinnrade, D. 118

Sehnsucht, D. 636, Op. 39

Melody Moore, soprano

Schubert: Cello Quintet D. 956

O'Connor World Premiere
May 19-22, 2011

Thursday, May 19 at 8pm, First Congregational Church of Berkeley

Friday, May 20 at 8pm, First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto

Saturday, May 21 at 8 pm, Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Sunday, May 22 at 5pm, Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, San Rafael

Elgar: Larghetto from Serenade for Strings in E minor, op. 20

Elgar: Introduction and Allegro

Bridge: Sir Roger de Coverly

Mark O'Connor: World Premiere Commission

Schnittke: Moz-art a la Haydn

Open Rehearsals

Monday, September 20 at 10am

Monday, November 15 at 10am

Monday, January 24 at 10am

Monday, March 21 at 10am

All open rehearsals are \$8 general admission at Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue.

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For complete biography, visit <http://ncco.org/history.htm>. Press photos are available at <http://ncco.org/mediakit.htm> or by contacting Maura Lafferty, Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator, mlafferty@ncco.org or 415.357.1111, ext. 308.