

New Century Chamber Orchestra

NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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ANNE-MARIE MCDERMOTT PERFORMS WITH NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG AND THE NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, MARCH 5-8

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (January 21, 2008) - Music Director [Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg](#) and the [New Century Chamber Orchestra](#) (NCCO) collaborate with pianist [Anne-Marie McDermott](#) on a program entitled "The Glory of Russia," March 5-8.

The Glory of Russia

Anne-Marie McDermott, piano

Prokofiev (arr. Rudolf Barshai): *Visions Fugitives*, Op. 22

Anne-Marie McDermott, piano

Shostakovich: Piano Concerto No. 1 in C minor, Op. 35

Anne-Marie McDermott, piano

Tchaikovsky: *Souvenir de Florence*



Pianist Anne-Marie McDermott, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg's long-time recital partner, teams up with the New Century Chamber Orchestra for a program featuring the strong passions and rich culture of Russia. Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg and Ms. McDermott create an "electrifying combination" (All Music Guide), and this collaboration promises daring interpretations.

Ms. McDermott takes center stage with Shostakovich's youthful Piano Concerto No. 1, a high-spirited, energetic showcase for soloist and orchestra alike. The grand finale, Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*, is one of Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg's favorite works, a triumph of romantic expression, rich strings, and pulsating rhythmic momentum. The evening begins with an unusual arrangement of Prokofiev's *Visions Fugitives* for piano and string orchestra.

"What I find so intriguing about Prokofiev's repertoire is the range of emotional and physical demands," Ms. McDermott remarks. "His writing allows the performer to explore a wide range of colors at the piano and a great sense of abandon. The *Visions Fugitives* present a gentler side of Prokofiev, but no less imaginative and inventive. It encompasses a series of night visions in brief movements that contrast each other, and, in this arrangement, in dialogue between piano and strings. They provide a perfect contrast to the Shostakovich Concerto which is fiery, intense and flamboyant - it's a magical contrast!" Read more at www.ncco.org/mcdermott_reflection.htm.

Concert tickets may be purchased through the NCCO at www.ncco.org and 415.357.1111 (menu option 4), or through City Box Office at www.cityboxoffice.com and 415.392.4400, and are \$32 to \$54 (half-price for those 30 and under).

Thursday, March 5, 8pm, Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

Friday, March 6, 8pm, First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Saturday, March 7, 8 pm, First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto

Sunday, March 8, 5 pm, Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, 200 N. San Pedro Rd., San Rafael

About Anne-Marie McDermott

A luminous, emotive pianist who conveys great sensitivity through her playing, Anne-Marie McDermott is widely celebrated for her performances on the world's most illustrious stages. A versatile musician, Ms. McDermott is at home as a solo recitalist, soloist with orchestra or as part of a chamber music ensemble, conveying the message of the composer in deeply felt, spontaneous playing.

Ms. McDermott's high-profile and award-winning career has taken her all over the United States and around the world, appearing with the orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Seattle, the Australian and Los Angeles Chamber Orchestras, and at festivals from Mostly Mozart, Ravinia, and Aspen to the Dubrovnik Festival in the former Yugoslavia, and the Festival Casals in Puerto Rico. In her continued association with violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Ms. McDermott has appeared in recitals around the country. As an artist member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, she was the curator and featured performer of a three concert Centennial Shostakovich Celebration.

Anne-Marie McDermott performed the complete cycle of Prokofiev's sonatas to great acclaim at the Lincoln Center Festival in July 2003. She also performed the cycle at the University of Arizona, at Chamber Music Northwest in Portland, and at UCLA's Schoenberg Hall. She recorded the complete cycle of Prokofiev's sonatas and chamber works for Arabesque Recordings. Her critically praised all-Bach recording has been re-released on the NSS Music Label, which was chosen as *Gramophone Magazine's* Editor's Choice.

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 was appointed Music Director and Concertmaster of the 17-member string ensemble in January 2008. The NCCO, 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, the NCCO provides violin lessons to underserved students in Marin City and San Rafael's Canal District. String quartets of NCCO members give intimate classroom performances in Bay Area elementary schools.

The orchestra has released four compact discs. *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 NCCO violist Kurt Rohde. For more information, please visit www.ncco.org.

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Music Director

An internationally-acclaimed soloist and chamber musician for more than 25 years, violinist **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg** was named Music Director and Concertmaster of the New Century Chamber Orchestra in January 2008. Nadja debuted with the orchestra in September 2007 with 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.

In addition to her role with the New Century Chamber Orchestra, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg also performs as soloist this season with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Saint Louis Symphony, Memphis Symphony, and San Diego Symphony. She will tour with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, perform recitals with pianist Anne-Marie McDermott and collaborate with guitarists Sérgio and Odair Assad. In February 2009, she will perform two concerts in Japan, at Tokyo Opera City and Muza Kawasaki. For more information, please visit www.nadjasalernosonnenberg.com or www.nssmusic.com.

Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg's inaugural season's marketing and public relations is made possible in part by a generous grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.