

New Century Chamber Orchestra

NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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THE NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS WITH PANACHE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (October 24, 2008) - Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the New Century Chamber Orchestra (NCCO) celebrate their new musical partnership with a special holiday program. Soprano Melody Moore and Schola Cantorum San Francisco join the orchestra for concerts that capture the warmth of the holidays with a refined flair, December 11-14, in four Bay Area locations. The program features diverse Christmas and Chanukah music from around the world alongside traditional favorites, making it “one that is hard to pass up” – *San Francisco Classical Voice*.

Celebrate the Holidays

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Concertmaster

Melody Moore, Soprano

Schola Cantorum San Francisco

Paul Flight, Artistic Director

Thursday, Dec. 11 at 8pm, St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley

Friday, Dec. 12 at 8pm, First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto

Saturday, Dec. 13 at 8pm, Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

Sunday, Dec. 14 at 5 pm, Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, 200 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael

G. F. Handel: *Solomon*, Overture and *Entrance of the Queen of Sheba*

J. S. Bach: *Brandenburg* Concerto No. 2 in F major, BWV 1047

J. S. Bach: *Brandenburg* Concerto No. 5 in D major, BWV 1050

Pedro de Cristo: *Quaeramus cum Pastoribus*

Antoine Brumel: *Noe, Noe*

Morton Lauridsen, arr. Clarice Assad: *O Magnum Mysterium*

Traditional, arr. Clarice Assad: *Hanukkah and Christmas Medley*

Single tickets for all the orchestra's 2008-2009 season concerts are available through www.ncco.org and 415.357.1111 and through City Box Office at www.cityboxoffice.com and 415.392.4400. Individual concert tickets are \$32 to \$54 (half-price for those 30 and under). Premiere boxes, including valet parking, are available in San Francisco for \$125. There are a limited number of tickets remaining to the December 11 concert in Berkeley.

About the Artists

Bay Area favorite **Melody Moore** makes a return engagement after appearing in critically praised performances of Britten's *Les Illuminations* with the NCCO in 2006-07. A recent Adler Fellow and former Merola Opera Program participant, Ms. Moore graduated from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, where she won the Norman Treigle and Andrew White Awards. She sang in Los Angeles Opera and San Francisco Opera productions of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Puccini's *La Rondine*, and Recovered Voices' *Der Zwerg* and *Der zerbrochene Krug*. This season, she will perform *La Boheme* with San Francisco Opera, English National Opera and Opera Cleveland.

Schola Cantorum San Francisco, founded in 1998 as resident liturgical choir at the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi, was reorganized in 2005 as an independent ensemble. The group has caught the attention of audiences and critics in and beyond the Bay Area for its purity of sound, careful tuning, and fine blend of voices. Especially known for its interpretations of Renaissance polyphony, the group is equally at home in a broad range of choral styles, from Gregorian chant to contemporary works. Noted choral conductor Dr. Paul Flight brings a wealth of expertise to the direction of the Schola Cantorum San Francisco.

About The New Century Chamber Orchestra

The New Century Chamber Orchestra, founded in 1992, is comprised of local musicians as well as those who travel from across the U.S. and Europe to perform in the Bay Area together. The NCCO performs without a conductor, resulting in an enhanced level of commitment on the part of the musicians to concerts of remarkable precision, passion and power. 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.

In the **Featured Composer Program**, recently established by Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the orchestra, the NCCO will commission and perform new works in each of the next three seasons. The 2008-09 Featured Composer is **Clarice Assad**, 30, a Brazilian classical and jazz composer, arranger, pianist, and vocalist. The composer will attend the performances of her works as well as other NCCO events to introduce her music to the audience.

The NCCO provides violin lessons to underserved students in Marin City and San Rafael's Canal District, as well as intimate classroom performances by string quartets to students in Bay Area elementary schools. The orchestra has released four compact discs, one of which was nominated for a Grammy Award in 1997. 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 <http://www.nadjasalernosonnenberg.com/> or <http://www.nssmusic.com/>.

High-resolution photos of the artists are available at www.ncco.org/mediakit.htm.

The New Century Chamber Orchestra's inaugural season with Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg is made possible in part by generous ongoing support from the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation.

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.