

New Century Chamber Orchestra

NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG, MUSIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG AND THE NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PRESENT WORLD PREMIERE OF VIOLIN CONCERTO, MAY 14-19

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (April 2, 2009) - Music Director [Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg](#) and the [New Century Chamber Orchestra](#) will present the world premiere of the violin concerto *Dreamscape* by Clarice Assad, May 14-19 around the Bay Area.

Shadows and Light

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, violin

Mozart: *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*

Bernard Herrmann: *Psycho Suite*

Borodin: *Nocturne*

Clarice Assad: *Dreamscape (World Premiere)*

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, violin

Strauss (arr. Mats Lidstrom): *Die Fledermaus Suite*

Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 8pm, First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Friday, May 15, 2009, at 8pm, First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto

Sunday, May 17, 2009 at 5pm, Osher Marin JCC, 200 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael

Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at 8 pm, Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco



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

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg leads the listener on a journey through sweet dreams and nightmares, from the elegant tones of Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* and Borodin's *Nocturne* to the terror of Bernard Herrmann's gripping *Psycho Suite*. Mats Lidstrom's string orchestra arrangement of the bubbly overture to Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*, a hilarious opera of love and revenge, completes the evening

The highlight of the evening is the world premiere of *Dreamscape*, commissioned from 2008-2009 Featured Composer Clarice Assad. This is New Century's second commission from Ms. Assad in a season of collaboration. "The bottom line is that the conscious mind wants to have a good night's sleep," says Ms. Assad. "The solo violin represents our conscious mind, aware of itself and its surroundings, and the orchestra represents the unconscious, providing the changes throughout the dream."

About Clarice Assad

NCCO Featured Composer, 2008-09 Season

Brazilian native [Clarice Assad](http://www.clariceassad.com/) is an accomplished composer, pianist, performer and arranger whose work is sought out by classical and jazz musicians. Her compositions have been published and performed internationally, and often explore physical and psychological themes. New Century premiered her *Impressions*, Suite for Chamber Orchestra in September 2008, and has performed arrangements of Morton Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium* and Heitor Villa-Lobos' *Aria* from *Bachiana Brasilieras No. 5* by Ms. Assad. Her new jazz CD with the Clarice Assad Trio, *Love, All That It Is*, was released on Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg's label, NSS Music.

As a pianist, Clarice Assad has received acclaim for her performances of both original compositions and her own arrangements of popular Brazilian songs and jazz standards. She has performed in concert and appeared on radio and television throughout Brazil, the United States, and Europe. Ms. Assad sings in Portuguese, French, Italian and English.

Clarice Assad is the daughter of Sergio Assad, one of the world's preeminent guitarists and composers, and has performed professionally since the age of seven. She studied classical piano at Berklee School of Music and at Roosevelt University in Chicago. Ms. Assad holds a Bachelor of Music from the Chicago College of the Performing Arts, Roosevelt University, and a Masters of Music in Composition from the University of Michigan. For more information, please visit <http://www.clariceassad.com/>.

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. 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 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 New Century 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.

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. 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 www.nadjasalernosonnenberg.com or www.nssmusic.com.

For Calendar Editors

Shadows and Light

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Short description:

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg leads the listener on a journey through sweet dreams and nightmares, from the elegant to the terrifying, and is featured in the world premiere of *Dreamscape*, a violin concerto commissioned from 2008-2009 Featured Composer Clarice Assad.

Medium-length description:

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg leads the listener on a journey through sweet dreams and nightmares, from the elegant tones of Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* and the bubbly overture to Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*, to the terror of Bernard Herrmann's gripping *Psycho Suite*. Borodin's *Nocturne* provides the perfect serenade and introduction to the highlight of the evening, the world premiere of *Dreamscape*, commissioned from 2008-2009 Featured Composer Clarice Assad.

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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.