

New Century Chamber Orchestra

NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG, MUSIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 11, 2008

Contact: Rachel Rossos

415.357.1111, ext. 305 / rrossos@ncco.org

Maura Lafferty

415.357.1111, ext. 308 / mlafferty@ncco.org

LEONIE BOT NAMED NEWEST VIOLINIST IN NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (November 11, 2008) - Music Director **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg** and the **New Century Chamber Orchestra** (NCCO) have chosen violinist **Leonie Bot** as the newest member of the 17-year-old chamber orchestra. Ms. Bot will make her debut with the orchestra next month, in holiday performances December 11-14 around the Bay Area.

Ms. Bot, currently of San Francisco, is completing her Master of Music in Violin and Chamber Music at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she studies with Axel Strauss, who performed as guest concertmaster with the New Century Chamber Orchestra in January 2007. Originally from the Netherlands, Ms. Bot completed her Bachelor of Music at the Conservatory of Amsterdam, where she studied with Hungarian violinist Istvan Párkányi. Her violin, made by Pierre Pacharelle, is owned by the Dutch National Instrument Foundation.

The violin auditions were held on October 11-13, 2008. The preliminary rounds were conducted at the First Congregational Church in Berkeley, and the final round was held at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco. The panel advanced two candidates to the final round.

Candidates hailed from all over the US, with some traveling from as far as New York and Indiana. Nearly two-thirds of the candidates came from California.



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. 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 <http://www.nadjasalernosonnenberg.com/> or <http://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.