

New Century Chamber Orchestra

NADJA SALERNO-SONNENBERG, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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ANNA KRUGER NAMED NEWEST VIOLIST IN NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Violist Jenny Douglass Chosen for Temporary Position

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (January 5, 2008) - Music Director **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg** and the **New Century Chamber Orchestra** (NCCO) have chosen violist **Anna Kruger** as the newest member of the 17-year-old chamber orchestra. Ms. Kruger will make her debut with the orchestra in two months, in performances March 5-8 around the Bay Area.

Ms. Kruger (right), of San Francisco, is Associate Principal Violist of the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra and Professor of Viola at California State University, Sacramento. She was the founding violist of the internationally-recognized Lark Quartet from 1985 to 1998, whose commission and premiere of Quartet No.2, *Musica instrumentalis* by Aaron Jay Kernis won the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1997.



Jenny Douglass (left), principal violist of the Marin Symphony and member of the Laurel Ensemble, was awarded a temporary position through the end of the 2008-09 season with the New Century Chamber Orchestra. Ms. Douglass also performs regularly with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and served as

Associate Principal Violist with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra from 1992 to 1997.

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.