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San Francisco Contemporary Music Players Presents
**Major works by David Lang and Gérard Grisey
+ 45th Anniversary Retrospective Celebration**

March 15th-19th, 2016

Z Space, 450 Florida St, San Francisco, CA 94110

Tickets and Information available at sfcmp.org

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**Week-long Cluster of Events Features Immersive Concert Experiences and Casual Celebration of 45
Years of Contemporary Music Performances**

SAN FRANCISCO (February 11, 2016) - The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players (SFCMP) will stage the final three concert programs of its 2015-2016 season with *Oscuroscope* and *Starscape*, from March 15 through March 19; plus the season finale, a 45-year retrospective concert, at San Francisco's Z Space.

Concerts March 15-16-17-18, 2016

SFCMP's weeklong residency at the experimental theater venue Z Space will be anchored by two performances each of major works by **David Lang**, and **Gérard Grisey**. Each evening of March 15-16-17-18 will begin with a pre-concert talk at 6:30pm curated by SFCMP Artistic Director, **Steven Schick**, followed by a 7:30pm performance.

Tickets for these events are available online via sfcmp.org, or through Z Space at zspace.org.

Oscuroscope

featuring San Francisco Contemporary Music Players

Steven Schick, Artistic Director & Conductor

March 15 and 17, 2016

at Z Space

450 Florida Street, San Francisco, California 94110

6:30pm pre-Concert talk with Steven Schick, 7:30pm Concert

Tickets \$35 Premium, \$25 General, \$15 Student

Oscuroscope features Pulitzer-Prize-winning and 2016 Oscar-nominated composer **David Lang's** introspectively ecstatic piece *darker*, for 12 string instruments. Over the course of an hour a very active string orchestra plays music that gets a little darker – not a lot, just a little. A film by visual artist Suzanne Bocanegra heightens the darkening. The result is hypnotic and moving. The program also includes Lang's electric guitar duet, *warmth*, composed in 2006.

Starscape

featuring San Francisco Contemporary Music Players

Steven Schick, Artistic Director & Conductor
March 16 and 18, 2016
at Z Space
450 Florida Street, San Francisco, California 94110
6:30pm pre-Concert talk with Steven Schick, 7:30pm Concert
Tickets \$35 Premium, \$25 General, \$15 Student

One of the greatest statements in the percussion repertoire, **Gérard Grisey's** *Le Noir de l'Étoile* takes both its inspiration and sound sources from recordings made of pulsars. These rhythmic phenomena, arriving from enormous distances, make our world come alive with pulsations. The performers of SFCMP will be "spatialized," surrounding a seating-in-the-round audience for this unique performance. Grisey's masterwork is complemented by **Marianthi Papalexandri-Alexandri's** *kein thema*, which looks inward at the smallest of sounds and inspirations – the small brushing sounds of skin on a temple block, the rhythmic swoop of a marble rolling – and makes chamber music from them.

45th Anniversary Retrospective Celebration, March 19, 2016

Concert and Celebration
featuring Steven Schick and soloists from the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players
March 19, 2016
at Z Space
450 Florida Street, San Francisco, California 94110
6:00-8:00pm, performance at 6:45pm
Suggested donation at the door \$45 General, \$15 Student

In celebration of the founders of SFCMP, Jean-Louis LeRoux, Marcella DeCray and Charles Boone, **Steven Schick** and SFCMP ensemble members **Kate Campbell** (piano) and **Karen Gottlieb** (harp) will present a brief program of solo works by Georges Aperghis, John Cage, George Crumb, and Lou Harrison. The organization will celebrate its longevity and status as the longest-running contemporary music ensemble in the western US with an evening of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, small plates, live music, and a display of memorabilia gathered from the past 45 years.

About David Lang (composer)

Passionate, prolific, and complicated, composer **David Lang** embodies the restless spirit of invention. Lang is at the same time deeply versed in the classical tradition and committed to music that resists categorization, constantly creating new forms. In the words of *The New Yorker*, "With his winning of the Pulitzer Prize for *the little match girl passion* (one of the most original and moving scores of recent years), Lang, once a postminimalist enfant terrible, has solidified his standing as an American master." Learn more about Pulitzer Prize winning composer David Lang at davidlangmusic.com.

About Marianthi Papalexandri-Alexandri (composer)

Marianthi Papalexandri – Alexandri is a Berlin-based sound artist, composer and performer who is best known for her minimal and elegant sound constructions that she creates herself and in collaboration with Swiss Kinetic artist Pe Lang, exploring the links between musical instrument and sound sculpture. Her work is situated at the intersections of sound art, composition and performance. Papalexandri holds a PhD in music composition from the University of California, San Diego. Her compositions, installations and sound sculptures involve a continuous interaction between the visual to the musical, that demand absolute focus, clarity and economy of means.

About Gérard Grisey (composer)

Gérard Grisey was born in Belfort, France on 17 June 1946. He studied at the Trossingen Conservatory in Germany from 1963 to 1965 before entering the Conservatoire de Paris. Grisey won the highly coveted Prix de Rome and stayed at the Villa Medici in Rome from 1972 to 1974, and in 1973 founded a group called *L'itinéraire* with Tristan Murail, Roger Tessier and Michael Levinas, later to be joined by Hugues Dufourt. *Dérives*, *Périodes*, and *Partiels* were among the first pieces of spectral music. In 1974-75, he studied acoustics with Emile Leipp at the Paris VI University, and in 1980 became a trainee at the IRCAM (Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique). In the same year he went to Berlin as a guest of the D.A.A.D., and afterwards left for the University of California, Berkeley, where he was appointed professor of theory and composition (1982-1986). Gérard Grisey's music is often considered to belong to the genre of spectral music, which he is credited with founding along with fellow composer Tristan Murail, although he later disowned the label in interviews and writings. Nonetheless, he spent much of his career exploring the spectrum of tone colour between harmonic overtones and noise. In addition, he was fascinated by musical processes which unfold slowly, and he made musical time a major element of many of his pieces. Grisey passed at the age of 52 in November 1998.

About Steven Schick, SFCMP Artistic Director

The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players is led by internationally renowned conductor and percussionist Steven Schick. Lauded as a “brilliant” conductor by Anthony Tommasini in *The New York Times*, Schick has spent the last thirty years championing contemporary percussion music as a conductor, performer, and teacher. He has commissioned and premiered more than one hundred new works by composers as varied as Brian Ferneyhough, David Lang, and Iannis Xenakis. He is the founder and Artistic Director of the percussion group red fish blue fish, the Music Director and conductor of the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, and a frequent guest conductor of New York's International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE). In addition to his work as a conductor and performer, Schick nurtures the next generation of artists as Distinguished Professor of Music at the University of California, San Diego, where he was honored with the UCSD Chancellor's Associates Faculty Excellence Award for 2011-2012.

About San Francisco Contemporary Music Players

San Francisco Contemporary Music Players (SFCMP) provides world-class contemporary classical music performances of the leading national and international artists of our time to San Francisco Bay Area audiences. SFCMP expands and enhances the contemporary music repertoire by collaborating with composers on the interpretation, recording and commissioning of new works. SFCMP helps develop emerging audiences for this genre of music through the education and mentorship of emerging composers and players. The professional ensemble, the Players, comprise artistically diverse musicians from the Bay Area who are devoted to the cultivation and outstanding performance of contemporary music.

San Francisco Contemporary Music Players was founded by Jean-Louis LeRoux, Marcella DeCray and Charles Boone as “Bring your Own Pillow” on March 25, 1971 and incorporated as a nonprofit on August 14, 1974. SFCMP is the most long-standing, continuously performing new music ensemble outside the East Coast. Over its 45 seasons, SFCMP's work has greatly contributed to the art form and the new music sector, having performed more than 1,200 new works by 560 composers. Nearly 150 of these have been premieres, and we have commissioned more than 80 new works by composers from around the world. SFCMP has been presented by leading cultural festivals and concert series in the San Francisco Bay Area region and beyond.

For more information, visit <http://sfcmp.org>