



SFCMP's 46th Season Offers Leading Works of Contemporary Music On Stage, In the Community, and through Education Efforts

SAN FRANCISCO (April 7, 2016) – **San Francisco Contemporary Music Players** (SFCMP), the Bay Area's leading contemporary classical ensemble, will offer audiences a diverse set of experiences in 2016-17. The group's 46th season offers performances of the latest works of composers from around the world, with an emphasis on California composers. Community and Education events complement stage performances to bring listeners behind the scenes, to explore classical music that is advancing and challenging musical space and sound.

The season is anchored by three major concert events plus a two-day exploration of the work and impact of composer Lou Harrison, in recognition of his centenary:

- ***In the Light of Air*** (October 8, 2016 at Herbst Theater) by Icelandic composer Anna Thorvaldsdottir anchors the first program alongside new works by California composers Ken Ueno and Joe Pereira.
- SFCMP will partner with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music to present ***Emerging Voices*** (January 20, 2017 at SF Conservatory of Music), a challenging program that includes György Ligeti's *Chamber Concerto*, and a new work by San Francisco-based composer Richard Festinger, commissioned by SFCMP.
- ***Stravinsky Interpolations*** (February 17, 2016 at Herbst Theater) replaces the dramatic action of *L'Histoire du Soldat* with improvised interpolations by trumpet virtuoso Peter Evans, creating a multi-century dialogue.
- SFCMP concludes its season with two days of events in honor of ***Lou Harrison's Centenary Celebration***. The rich programming features SFSearch, a Bay Area under 30 composer competition, a film screening, composer talks, and three full concerts of music by Harrison and his successors.

SFCMP will also present two **SFCMP in the Community** events, including Phil Kline's *Unsilent Night*, and a total of seven **Education Events**, including "How Music Is Made" composer talks and Master Classes with members of the ensemble.

San Francisco Contemporary Music Players Complete 2016-17 Season Information

on Stage Series:

SFCMP brings to the stage the most influential national and international works by the greatest contemporary classical music composers

"In the Light of Air"

Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Saturday, October 8, 2016

Pre-concert discussion 6:30pm Concert 7:30pm

This work by Icelandic composer Anna Thorvaldsdottir is among the most important new pieces of recent years and anchors a program of intense luminosity, including colorful and evocative new works by California composers Ken Ueno and Joe Pereira. The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players also returns to a composer we have longed championed, Toru Takemitsu performing his sublime classic, *Toward the Sea*.

Ken Ueno *New Work TBD* (2016) 20' *west coast premiere
Flute, oboe, clarinet, 2 cellos, 2 percussion

Toru Takemitsu *Toward the Sea* (1981) (12')
Guitar, alto flute

Joe Pereira *Glimpse* (2015) (17') *Premiere
Alto Flute, Bass Clarinet, Piano, Violin, Cello

Anna Thorvaldsdottir *In the Light of Air* (2014) (45')
Viola, cello, piano, harp, percussion, fixed electronics

“Stravinsky Interpolations”

Friday, February 17, 2017

Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Pre-concert discussion 6:30pm Concert 7:30pm

In a departure from the usual way of presenting, Stravinsky's iconic *L'Histoire du Soldat*, now approaching its centennial, we will replace the dramatic action and much of the original Ramuz text with improvised interpolations led by trumpet virtuoso supreme, Peter Evans. The result will be an Evans/Stravinsky mash-up in which two musics will speak to each other across a century – responding and resonating, cajoling and interrupting – in a conversation about the eternal issues of good and evil; war and peace.

Igor Stravinsky *L'Histoire du Soldat* (1918)
Violin, bass, clarinet, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, percussion

Peter Evans *Improvised Interpolations*
Trumpet, oboe, percussion

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in the Laboratory Series:

Explore the works that push the boundaries of the traditional concert experience through innovative instrumentation and creative stage arrangements

“Emerging Voices”

San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak Street, San Francisco

Friday, January 20, 2017

Pre-concert discussion 6:30pm Concert 7:30pm

In this program, we explore the voice in its broadest sense: from a premiere of a song cycle by San Francisco composer Richard Festinger to an invocation of the voices of nature in Michael Pisaro's evocative *ricefall* for 16 players and various resonant metal and wooden objects. Anchoring the program is a pair of composers – one emerging and another established: Kate Soper's, *Door* features voice and electric guitar alongside a rare performance of Gyorgy Ligeti's landmark *Chamber Concerto*, which features the voices of 13 concertante soloists.

Richard Festinger *New Work* (2016) *SFCMP Commission
Six instruments and Baritone

Michael Pisaro *ricefall* (2004) (18')
16 performers

Kate Soper *Door* (2007) (10')
Soprano, flute, tenor sax, accordion, electric guitar

György Ligeti *Chamber Concerto* (1969) (19')
Flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, tenor trombone, harpsichord, piano, violin, viola, cello, double bass

at the Crossroads Series:

Explore the place where roads intersect through the music of iconic contemporary composers performed alongside cutting-edge emerging composers from California and beyond

Lou Harrison Centenary Celebration

Locations to be announced

Eavesdrop on conversations between Lou Harrison, much loved California composer whose 100th birthday we celebrate in 2017, and two younger generations who share his lifelong interests of exploration and inclusivity. We'll hear Harrison's music alongside that of Natacha Diels whose work, like Harrison's, is steeped in a sense of ritual; Gity Razaz who fearlessly combines technologies and cultures, the prolific; and eloquent Jimmy Lopez, and the playfully absurd Annie Gosfield. You'll listen to composer talks and we'll perform and record music by the newest generation of composers influenced by Harrison's work through our SF Search Program: the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players program in support of Bay Area emerging composers.

Friday, April 21, 2017

2 – 5pm

SFCMP presents SFSearch: Under 30 Composer Competition, Discussion, Reading and Tribute to Lou Harrison

Each emerging composer is asked to write a new work for three instrumentalists no more than six minutes in duration which demonstrates a Lou Harrison influence. Three composers are selected by the panel which consists of Artistic Director Steven Schick and three SFCMP Players. Each composer receives a reading by SFCMP Players, feedback from the panelists, a public performance, and an archival recording.

Time TBA

Lou Harrison: A World of Music

Film showcasing his life and work as a composer; includes Q & A with filmmaker and special guest Eva Soltes

Saturday, April 22, 2017

11am

Concert #1

SFCMP Presents SFSearch

Emerging Composers Performance and Lou Harrison Tribute

12-1pm

Noontime Composer Talks

"How Music is Made" with Jimmy Lopez and Natacha Diels

2:30pm

Concert #2

Lou Harrison, *Canticle # 3* (1942) (14')

Ocarina, 5 percussionists, guitar

"How Music is Made" Onstage with Jimmy Lopez (10')

Jimmy Lopez, *Ccantu* (2011) (6')

Piano solo

Intermission

Lou Harrison, *Varied Trio* (1986) (15')

Piano, Violin, Percussion

Annie Gosfield, *Daughters of the Industrial Revolution* (2011) (10')

Guitar, Drums, Percussion, Cello

6:00-7pm

"Knowing Lou"

Steven Schick in conversation with David Tanenbaum, William Winant and Karen Gottlieb, SFCMP Ensemble and friends of Lou Harrison.

7:30pm

Concert #3

Lou Harrison *Suite for Cello and Harp* (1949) (14')

Cello, Harp

Gity Razaz, *Shadow Lines* (2014) (10')

Cello and Electronics

Intermission

Lou Harrison *Scenes from Nek Chand* (2001/2) (10')

National Steel Guitar Solo

“How Music is Made” Onstage with Natacha Diels (10’)

Natacha Diels, *The Colors Don't Match* (2014) (11’)

Piccolo, violin, clarinet, voice, glockenspiel, vibraphone, electronics

SFCMP in the Community

SFCMP presents

SFSearch: Emerging Composers Competition and Reading Panel

Emerging Composers who are not more than 30 years of age at the time of submission and who live in the San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland, CA Combined Statistical Area are invited to submit original compositions for the Emerging Composers Competition and Reading Session. Three winners in the competition will each receive a cash prize of \$500, feedback from a panel of composers and performers, a live performance by the ensemble, and a recording of their work.

SFCMP presents Phil Kline's "Unsilent Night"

Dec 10, 2016

This free holiday event is linked to “Unsilent Night” celebrations around the world. The original composition by Phil Kline, written specifically to be heard outdoors in the month of December, takes the form of a street promenade in which the audience becomes the performer. Each participant plays one of four tracks of music downloaded to their smart phone, or anything that amplifies music, together comprising “Unsilent Night.” The SFCMP public ensemble will walk a carefully chosen route through San Francisco, creating a unique mobile sound sculpture.

Sound and Wine with SFCMP

March 25, 2017

“Sound and Wine with SFCMP” attendees will explore three masterpieces in the contemporary music community while sipping some of California's best wine in a comfortable and casual setting. Three SFCMP Players personally curate their favorite piece that has been performed by SFCMP. She or he will unfold the history of the piece while introducing listeners to their perspective on its creation, performance and connection to the greater music community. This special event combines a sound tour, slideshow, and good music with great wine and small plates: a rare opportunity to delve deeper into the creation and performance of contemporary music and get to know some of the best musicians in the San Francisco Bay Area.

SFCMP Education Series

SFCMP presents *How Music is Made*

Contemporary Music Composer Talks. Noontime talks

If you are a serious composer, performer or fan of contemporary classical music then you'll love *How Music is Made*. In this series, we explore the work of a single contemporary classical composer in depth. We bring to you some of the leading national and international composers of contemporary classical music. At each noontime talk, you'll hear SFCMP resident composer discuss their innovative ideas and techniques behind the piece which will be performed by San Francisco Contemporary Music Players that evening. Audience members will experience unique insight into the inspiration behind the notes as Artistic Director, Steven

Schick guides the discussion toward the development of artistic ideas and techniques used to convey contemporary classical musical ideas. After the talk, participants are invited to Join SFCMP in rehearsal with the composer and enjoy this unique behind-the-scenes opportunity.

View online schedule for exact dates:

Oct 2016 How Music is Made with composer Ken Ueno

Jan 2017 How Music is Made with composer Richard Festinger

Feb 2017 How Music is Made with composer Peter Evans

Apr 2017 How Music is Made with composer Natacha Diels & Jimmy Lopez

SFCMP Master Classes with SFCMP Artistic Director and SFCMP Players, open to the public

Jan 2017 Master Class by SFCMP Artistic Director, Steven Schick, percussion

Feb 2017 Master Class by SFCMP Player, Jeff Anderle

Feb 2017 Master Class by SFCMP Player, Artist TBA

Tickets

Subscriptions for all 2016-17 SFCMP concert presentations go on sale **April 15, 2016**

All ticket information will be made available online at sfcmp.org

About the 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.

SFCMP was founded by Jean-Louis LeRoux, Marcella DeCray and Charles Boone in March 1971 and incorporated as a nonprofit in August 1974. Throughout its history, SFCMP has been led by six Artistic Directors and seven Executive Directors with continuous support and oversight by an active Board of Directors. SFCMP plays an important role in the regional and national cultural landscape as the most long-standing, continually performing new music ensemble outside the East Coast.

About Steven Schick

Percussionist, conductor, and author, Steven Schick was raised in an Iowa farming family. For forty years he has championed contemporary music by commissioning or premiering more than 150 new works. He was the founding percussionist of the Bang on a Can All-Stars (1992-2002) and served as Artistic Director of the Centre International de Percussion de Genève (2000-2005). Schick is founder and Artistic Director of the percussion group, "red fish blue fish." Currently he is Music Director of the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus in addition to serving as SFCMP's Artistic Director. In 2012 he became the first Artist-in-Residence with the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE). Schick founded and is currently Artistic Director of "Roots and Rhizomes," a summer course on contemporary percussion music held at the Banff Centre for the Arts. He maintains a lively schedule of guest conducting including appearances this season with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Nova Chamber Ensemble and the Asko/Schönberg Ensemble. Schick was music director of the 2015 Ojai Festival. Among his acclaimed publications are a book, *The Percussionist's Art: Same Bed, Different Dreams*, and numerous recordings of contemporary percussion music including a three-CD set of the complete percussion music of Iannis Xenakis (Mode). Mode released a companion recording on DVD of the early percussion music of Karlheinz Stockhausen in September of 2014. Steven Schick is Distinguished Professor of Music at the University of California, San Diego. He was named Artistic Director of SFCMP in 2011.

Biographies of SFCMP ensemble members can be accessed online at: <http://sfcmp.org/category/players>