



SAN FRANCISCO
CONTEMPORARY
MUSIC PLAYERS

Contact:
Cheryl Steets
Marketing and Communications Director
press@sfcmp.org - (415) 278-9566

SFCMP Opens 46th Season With Luminous, Influential Works by Ueno, Pereira, Takemitsu and Thorvaldsdottir

SAN FRANCISCO (September 13, 2016) – **San Francisco Contemporary Music Players (SFCMP)** brings its 46th season to life on October 8 with an intensely luminous program featuring the west coast premiere of a new work by California composer Ken Ueno, *Sawdust on Ararat*, as well as works by Joseph Pereira, Toru Takemitsu, and Anna Thorvaldsdottir. The event takes place at the new Taube Atrium Theatre on Saturday, October 8, 2016, at 7:30 p.m.. Preceding the concert is an open dress rehearsal of Ueno's *Sawdust on Ararat* from 4:00 - 4:30 p.m., and a Composer Talk featuring Ueno and Pereira, hosted by SFCMP artistic director Steven Schick, from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Both of these pre-concert events are free and open to the public. Ticketholders are invited to a pre-concert discussion at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for the concert, as well as 2016-17 season tickets, are on sale now.

In addition to the west-coast premiere of *Sawdust on Ararat* (2016), an evocative twenty-minute work that leans toward inventive colors produced by unconventional performance techniques, the SFCMP will also give the first performance of Joseph Pereira's new 17-minute work *Glimpse*, which highlights the celebrated California percussionist's sensitivity to color and sonic nuance.

Anchoring the program is the magical *In the Light of Air* by internationally recognized Icelandic composer Anna Thorvaldsdottir. The 40-minute work is among the most important new pieces of recent years. Its expansive sonic landscapes, alive with light and color, will be presented with a subtly undulating lighting plan specially designed by the SFCMP, uniquely suited to this performance in the Taube Theatre space. Lighting for Anna Thorvaldsdottir's *In the Light of Air* is not the composer's original lighting installation; it is a lighting design created by SFCMP for this performance only.

The program also includes Toru Takemitsu's sublime classic for guitar and alto flute, *Toward the Sea* (1981).

Commenting on his inspirations for the program, artistic director Steve Schick said, "Thorvaldsdottir's *In the Light of Air* was the spark that lit the way for our colorful October 8 event. We are honored to have both Ken Ueno and Joseph Pereira participating in our pre-concert Composer Talk, where we all can benefit from their personal perspectives on their works to be performed that evening. Takemitsu's *Toward the Sea* further catalyzes our experience of the sublime in the evening's program. Given the dramatic depth of creativity in these four composers whose works we will perform, I predict that this will be an extraordinary evening for aficionados of contemporary classical music."

SFCMP's 2016-17 season includes six concerts divided into three concert series: the *On Stage* series, the *In the Laboratory* series, and *At the Crossroads* series. The October 8 event is the first of SFCMP's *On Stage* series, which will bring to the stage some of the most influential national and international

contemporary classical composers of the 20th and 21st centuries. In addition to the *On Stage* series, the 2016-17 season framework includes the *In the Laboratory* series, which showcases large-scale contemporary classical works that have pushed the boundaries of the concert format and experience; and the *At the Crossroads* series, which features the music of iconic contemporary classical composers performed alongside cutting-edge emerging composers from California and beyond.

For more information on tickets and to learn more about the 2016-17 series framework, or to purchase season subscriptions visit <http://sfcmp.org/tickets/>.

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>.