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SFCMP Announces Its 47th Season, Highlighting Large Ensemble Works and California Composers

Season Includes Works by Hans Abrahamsen, John Zorn, and a Weekend Festival Celebrating Pauline Oliveros

SAN FRANCISCO (April 18, 2017) – **San Francisco Contemporary Music Players (SFCMP)** announces with pleasure its 2017-18 season, best described as a celebration of music from across generations. The ensemble's 47th season, and Steven Schick's seventh and final season as Artistic Director of SFCMP, offers six performances of the latest works of composers from around the world, with an emphasis on large-ensemble works and California composers. An exceptionally rich and colorful array of composers fills the season calendar, which SFCMP has organized into five "series," a designation that began in the 2016-17 season. The five SFCMP series are the *On Stage* series, the *In the Laboratory* series, the *At the Crossroads* series, the *In the Community* series, and the *Education* series. The 2017-18 series offers at least one event in each of the designated series.

In the *On Stage* series, which brings to the stage some of the most influential contemporary classical composers of the 20th and 21st centuries, SFCMP's season-opener concert will juxtapose three looks at musical color, three sonic landscapes, and three provocative composers. Featuring the USA premiere of a new work by Philippe Leroux, as well as a premiere by Nicole Mitchell, whose work celebrates African-American culture while reaching across genres, and Danish composer Hans Abrahamsen, whose work *Schnee* is esteemed as one of the first classics of 21st-century music, the concert will offer fluid interactions within a chamber ensemble and an electric (and eclectic) combination of instruments. The concert will take place on October 21, 2017, at the Taube Atrium Theatre, and will feature Nicole Mitchell in the "How Music Is Made" composer talk segment.

The "How Music is Made" program celebrates living contemporary classical composers and their work. This program provides an interactive opportunity for the audience to explore the work of composers that they will hear at a concert later that day. Preceding the "How Music Is Made" talk, SFCMP invites the public to an open dress rehearsal of one of the works to be performed that day. In the 2017-18 season, four contemporary classical composers from California will participate in the program: Nicole Mitchell, Vivian Fung, Ryan Brown and Carolyn Chen.

For its *In the Laboratory* series, which showcases large-scale contemporary classical works that push the boundaries of the concert format and experience, SFCMP will offer a wild ride of concert fun and games with the presentation of John Zorn's potentially raucous *Cobra* and Frederic Rzewski's potentially confounding *Les Moutons de Panurge*. Each of these works engage the energies of performers to create unheard-of possibilities. Completing this program is a juggling act for pianist who sings in Don Byron's *7 Etudes (for Vocalizing Pianist)*, as well as Ryan Brown's delicate *Under the Rug*, and *Twist* for guitar and violin by Vivian Fung. Brown and Fung will be featured in the "How Music Is Made" composer talk. This event will take place on Friday, Jan 19, 2018, at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Concert Hall and will feature San Francisco Conservatory of Music students.

SFCMP's *At the Crossroads* series celebrates the work of legacy composers alongside cutting-edge composers from across generations. Representing this series for 2017-18 is an event titled "At the Crossroads with Pauline Oliveros" which will take place on March 23 and 24, 2018, at Z Space to celebrate the 85th birthday of Oliveros and the 50th anniversary of her seminal tape pieces made in San Francisco. Spanning three generations of artistry, the weekend festival will feature works by Pauline Oliveros, Luciano Berio, Morton Feldman, and Galina Ustvolskaya. The work of emerging composers Xavier Beteta and Carolyn Chen will also be featured, along with three under-30 Bay Area composers who have written works inspired by Oliveros as part of SFCMP's *SF Search* program. Chen will premiere a SFCMP-commissioned work and will be featured in the "How Music Is Made" composer talk for this event. Rounding out the weekend festival, SFCMP Artistic Director Steven Schick will perform in a special Saturday-evening solo percussion concert that will include a premiere by Celeste Oram.

Under the aegis of its *Education* series, SFCMP will offer a new music master class with percussionist William Winant and will continue its *Side by Side* program for professional development for music students at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, which facilitates students joining SFCMP in rehearsals and performance under the mentorship of the SFCMP artistic director and players.

Lastly, SFCMP brings contemporary classical music out of the concert hall and into the community with two events in its *In the Community* series, encouraging the exploration of contemporary classical music in a fun, festive and engaging way. On December 9, 2017, SFCMP will present Phil Kline's *Unsilent Night*, a popular holiday musical promenade it has hosted in past years, and will also hold its *Sound and Wine* season-end celebration on April 18, 2018.

SFCMP Artistic Director Steven Schick remarked, "The 2017-18 season is a celebration of original voices. From the frozen murmurs of Hans Abrahamsen's *Schnee* through the ludic excesses of John Zorn's *Cobra* (in our yearly collaboration with the San Francisco Conservatory) to the inspirations of Pauline Oliveros, whose sage and compassionate voice we lost last year, we will welcome our audiences to a season of one-of-a-kind musical moments. We'll offer great music, stimulating conversations and, of course, the impeccable musicianship of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players."

Subscriptions to the new season are now available for purchase at www.sfcmp.org. SFCMP's final event of the current 2016-17 series, a Lou Harrison festival weekend, takes place this coming weekend April 21-22. For more information on this imminent event, visit <http://www.zspace.org/lou-harrison-a-cent>.

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>.