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SFCMP Kicks Off Its 47th Season with Two Premieres and a 21st-Century Classic

Works by Philippe Leroux, Nicole Mitchell, and Hans Abrahamsen Offer "a Triptych of Fascinating Rituals"

SAN FRANCISCO (September 25, 2017) – **San Francisco Contemporary Music Players** (SFCMP) announces its season-opener concert that will feature the west coast premiere of a new work by Philippe Leroux, as well as a world premiere by California composer Nicole Mitchell, whose work celebrates African-American culture while reaching across genres, and "Schnee" by Danish composer Hans Abrahamsen, a work esteemed as one of the first classics of 21st-century music.

The event takes place at the Taube Atrium Theatre on Saturday, October 21, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. Preceding the concert is an open dress rehearsal of *Procession Time* by Nicole Mitchell from 4:00 - 4:30 p.m., followed by a composer talk with Mitchell, "How Music Is Made," facilitated by SFCMP artistic director Steven Schick, from 4:30 - 5:20 p.m. Both of these pre-concert events are free and open to the public. Ticketholders are also invited to a pre-concert discussion between Schick and SFCMP musicians at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for the concert, as well as 2017-18 season tickets, are on sale now.

Commenting on the program, SFCMP artistic director Stephen Schick noted, "Our opening concert is a triptych of fascinating rituals, starting with Philippe Leroux's trademark high energy interplay among the members of his quintet -- music that might remind you of a lava lamp at ten times the normal speed! We'll anchor the program with Hans Abrahamsen's *Schnee*, a finely wrought contrapuntal essay for nine instruments. Featured will be an SFCMP premiere of Nicole Mitchell's *Procession Time*, inspired by the work *Ritual*, a painting by Norman Lewis, one of the most important figures of the Harlem Renaissance."

This concert is the first of five 2017-18 season concerts that will be led by Schick, who has been SFCMP's artistic director since 2011. This season marks Schick's last season with SFCMP. The organization's incoming artistic director, Eric Dudley, will be publicly introduced at SFCMP's January 19 concert at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Leroux's *Postlude à l'Épais* (2016) will feature Tod Brody on flute; Peter Josheff on clarinet; Kate Campbell on piano; Hrabba Atladottir on violin; and Stephen Harrison on cello.

Mitchell's *Procession Time* (2017) will feature Tod Brody on alto flute; Jeff Anderle on bass clarinet; Kate Campbell on piano; and Stephen Harrison on cello.

Hans Abrahamsen's *Schnee* (2008) will feature Tod Brody on piccolo/alto flute; Kyle Bruckmann on English horn; Bill Kalinkos on eb/bass clarinets; Christopher Froh on percussion; Kate Campbell and Allegra Chapman on piano; Hrabba Atladottir on violin; Meena Bhasin on iola; and Helen Newby on cello.

This concert is part of SFCMP's ongoing *On Stage* concert series, which bringing to the stage some of the most influential national and international contemporary classical composers of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Tickets for the concert range from \$15-35 and can be purchased at <http://sfcmp.org/event/oct-21-2017/>.

For more information, visit 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>.