



SAN FRANCISCO
CONTEMPORARY
MUSIC PLAYERS

***Fire and Water,
Shadows and Dust***

April 24, 2023
Noe Valley Ministry

A Message from Artistic Director Eric Dudley



Dear adventurers in new music,

It is our absolute pleasure to welcome you to another season of the SF Contemporary Music Players, our 52nd year in the running, and one that's filled with fascinating sonic journeys that we're thrilled to be able to embark on with you. As we continue our return to the city's concert stages, we're overjoyed to present programs that engage with some of the fundamental aspects of musical creation that have captivated composers across the ages - from the physical and acoustic, to the temporal and spatial, and also the interpersonal.

With today's concert, 'Fire and Water, Shadows and Dust,' we feature harpist Meredith Clark and flutist Tod Brody in a duo concert exploring points of connection between the musical and the visual. The concert title itself comes from several works on the program: Jennifer Higdon's *rapid♦fire* for solo flute, Toru Takemitsu's *Toward the Sea*, and Suzanne Farrin's *Polvere et Ombra* (Dust and Shadow) for solo harp, all exploring musical outlets for visual imagery and themes. A duo piece by Salvatore Sciarrino takes its name from an actual canvas by Swiss painter Arnold Böcklin, and Roberto Sierra's *Flower Pieces* further roots the concert's offerings in the naturalistic world. As capstones, Luciano Berio's brilliant solo *Sequenzas* for both flute and harp serve as pillars of sheer virtuosity.

Right around the corner on May 11, 'Power Duos & Power Dynamics' closes our season with a focus on human relationships and the drama of performance, with pieces by husband-and-wife and father-and-son duos each exploring the interactions of art, artist and audience.

As always, please keep checking in with our website for up-to-date information on our season events, and THANK YOU for your enthusiastic support of contemporary music and all that we do. We're honored by your continued engagement with the Contemporary Music Players and our programs, and if you're joining us for the first time, we hope that you're intrigued by what you hear and keep coming back! Please enjoy all that we have to offer on our 2022-2023 season, and help us to spread the excitement for the music of 'right now!'

Warmest regards,
Eric Dudley



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Fire and Water, Shadows and Dust

April 24, 2023

7:30 PM: Concert

Noe Valley Ministry

Eric Dudley, Artistic Director

Tod Brody, flute

Meredith Clark, harp

PROGRAM

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <i>Fauno che fischia a un merlo</i> for flute & harp (1980) | Salvatore Sciarrino (b. 1947) |
| <i>Polvere et Ombra</i> for solo harp (2008) | Suzanne Farrin (b. 1976) |
| <i>Flower Pieces</i> for flute & harp (1994)
(selections to be announced) | Roberto Sierra (b. 1953) |
| <i>Sequenza II</i> for solo harp (1963) | Luciano Berio (1925-2003) |
| <i>rapid♦fire</i> for solo flute (1992) | Jennifer Higdon (b. 1962) |

INTERMISSION

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| <i>Sequenza I</i> for solo flute (1958) | Luciano Berio (1925-2003) |
| <i>Three Lil Pretties</i> for solo harp (2022)
(world premiere - Winner 2021 Search for Scores) | Marcus Norris (b. 1991) |
| <i>Toward the Sea III</i> for flute & harp (1989)
Night
Moby Dick
Cape Cod | Toru Takemitsu (1930-96) |

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

Fire and Water, Shadows and Dust embraces the Contemporary Players' highlights the individual artistry of our outstanding musicians This intimate concert experience offers the chance to encounter and discuss music and art in simultaneity, with time before the concert to view art and engage in conversation about the connection points between visual and auditory elements, followed by a performance from featured artists in our all-star cast of Contemporary Players virtuosi.

Sounding off numerous sources, both visual and literary, this program of works for flute and harp in both solo and duo repertoire exploits the full range of virtuosity on both instruments, while creating a powerful array of imagery at the same time. Centering on themes of mythology and mortality, pieces by Jennifer Higdon and Suzanne Farrin explore the intensities of sonic production suggested by contemplations on violence and disintegration, while works by Marcus Norris, Salvatore Sciarrino, Toru Takemitsu and Roberto Sierra inhabit the spaces of softer expressivity through imagistic references. The first two installments of Luciano Berio's Sequenza series, the Italian composer's landmark contribution to the solo repertoire of several instruments, anchor the program in a display of musical athleticism and sound painting.

Higdon's *rapid♦fire* reflects on the rage and despair rooted in the seemingly endless tide of shootings affecting our cities and our youth, exploiting the flexibility of the flute as an instrument at the same time. Farrin's *Polvere et Ombra* (Dust and Shadow) reconjures the world of the transient, while Sciarrino's *Fauno che fischia a un merlo* (Faun Whistling at a Blackbird) enters the mythic realm with a musical counterpart to a fanciful Arnold Böcklin canvas. Takemitsu's *Toward the Sea* offers three movements - 'Night,' 'Moby Dick,' and 'Cape Cod' - all based on imagery of the sea from Melville's classic novel, and a sampling of Roberto Sierra's *Flower Pieces* offers placid musings on the appearance of individual blossoms in the composer's at-home garden.

About The Musicians

Tod Brody, flute

Tod Brody has had an active career as a flutist in Northern California since the 1970s. He joined the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players in 1997. In addition to being the ensemble's flutist, he serves on the Players Committee and the Board of Directors. He is principal flutist of the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, the Sacramento Opera, and the California Musical Theater, and makes frequent appearances with the San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Ballet orchestras, and in other chamber and orchestral settings throughout the Bay Area. In addition to his position as principal flutist for the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, he also performs contemporary music of various flavors with Eco Ensemble, Earplay, and the Empyrean Ensemble. He has performed hundreds of world premieres, and has made many recordings.

In addition to his career as a performer and teacher, Tod has, for many years, held leadership positions with music organizations. He has served as Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the American Composers Forum, and as the first Executive Director of the contemporary opera company Opera Parallèle. Since 2016, he has been Executive Director of the Marin Symphony.

Meredith Clark, harp

Meredith Clark is a San Francisco based harpist, whose varied interests have taken her all over the world to perform. Recent performance highlights include performing as Guest Principal Harpist with the San Francisco Symphony at Carnegie Hall, a residency at the Lou Harrison House and soloing with conductorless chamber ensemble One Found Sound. As a chamber musician, Meredith has been featured in the Other Minds Festival and with the San Francisco new music group Earplay. Meredith is the Principal Harpist for the Oakland Symphony and plays frequently with other Bay Area orchestras. Meredith earned harp performance degrees at The Oberlin Conservatory of Music and The Cleveland Institute of Music, studying under Yolanda Kondonassis.

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The continued innovation and professionalism of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players has been driven and sustained by an entire community of individuals making contributions in countless and vital ways. Thank you for being part of this community. We gratefully acknowledge the following financial supporters who have made one or more donations between September 2021 and September 2022. We apologize for any errors or omissions; for corrections please contact us at info@sfcmp.org

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A former subscriber, Harold Wollack, left the first bequest to help underwrite the ensemble's concerts and programs. Recently, the ensemble received generous bequests from the estates of Jane Roos, and Victor and Esta Wolfram. All bequests help to ensure that our organization will remain vibrant and that future generations will enjoy the music of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players. We thank the following individuals who have arranged a legacy gift in support of our future:

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