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COSMIC FILAMENTS **2024-2025 Concert Season**

SAN FRANCISCO (August 30, 2024) San Francisco Contemporary Music Players proudly announces its 2024-2025 Concert Season: **COSMIC FILAMENTS**. The season will feature four Mainstage Concerts showcasing the works of over 20 composers, including 10 world, U.S., or West Coast premieres. As usual, the spotlight will be on large-ensemble pieces performed at iconic venues such as Brava Theater, Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall (SF Conservatory of Music), and Taube Atrium Theater.

Before each concert, Artistic Director & Conductor Eric Dudley will host the newly branded "Under the Hood" pre-concert talk, joined by composers, guest artists, and SFCMP ensemble members.

Season highlights include the world premieres of SFCMP commissions by Emma Logan (*Mother Eve*) and Mika Pelo (*Working from a Postcard*), the West Coast premiere of Augusta Read Thomas' *Terpsichore's Box of Dreams* for 13 Virtuosi, and a revival of the late Olly Wilson's anti-apartheid piece *No More* (originally premiered by SFCMP in 1985). Also featured are Kaija Saariaho's luminous *Lichtbogen (Bows of Light)* and the West Coast premiere of Carnegie Hall's 2024-25 Composer-in-Residence Gabriela Ortiz's *Corpórea*.

The season will also include works by Laura Elise Schwendinger, Mary Kouyoumdjian, Jonathan Bingham, Thomas Adès, Magnus Lindberg, Miguel Chuaqui, and Tania León, promising a wealth of musical treasures.

Each of the Mainstage Concerts has been designed around a specific theme:

- "Myths & Muses" (November 24, Brava Theater) - Harnesses the power of the female voice; a showcase of sonic narratives about women, by women – featuring music by Laura Schwendinger, Emma Logan, Mary Kouyoumdjian, and Augusta Read Thomas. Guest Artist: Kindra Schirach, mezzo-soprano.
- "Tracing Paths" (February 1, Caroline H Hume Concert Hall) – An observance of music and heritage in celebration of Black History Month – featuring music by Jonathan Bingham, Olly Wilson, Zosha Di Castri, Thomas Adès, and students from SF Conservatory of Music's Technology and Applied Composition Program. Guest Artists: Steven Schick, percussion; and Frederick A. Peterbark, tenor.
- "Northern Lights" (April 12, Taube Atrium Theater) - A journey through contemporary music from Sweden and Finland – featuring music by Kaija Saariaho, Mika Pelo, Jesper Nordin, and Magnus Lindberg.

- “Shared Rituals” (May 10, Brava Theater) – Explores the transformative power of music by Latinx composers – featuring music by Tania León, Gabriela Lena Frank, Ana Lara, Miguel Chuaqui, and Gabriela Ortiz. Guest Artists: Friction Quartet.

In addition to the Mainstage Concerts, the Contemporary Music Players continues its partnership with [ARTZenter Institute](#) on the enormously successful Emerging Composer Grant Program. Three public events featuring new pieces for chamber orchestra from 12 talented composers will be presented at Herbst Theatre (September, January, and June).

Additional info is available at <https://sfcmp.org>. Tickets are available via City Box Office: <https://www.cityboxoffice.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=3076>. Subscriptions go on sale September 15 and single tickets on October 15.

4- Concert Subscription (General Admission) - \$158
 4-Concert Student Subscription (General Admission) - \$56
 Single Ticket (General Admission) - \$45
 Single Student Ticket (General Admission) - \$18

2024-2025 MAINSTAGE CONCERTS

- ***“Myths & Muses”***

Sunday NOVEMBER 24, 2024

3:00 PM – “Under the Hood” Pre-Concert Talk

4:00 PM - Concert

Brava Theater, 2781 24th Street, San Francisco

Immerse in this rich mosaic of music that honors the creative genius of women. Mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich joins onstage for Emma Logan’s *Mother Eve*, a world premiere song cycle that weaves a musical tapestry through poetic meditations on the biblical figure. The artwork of da Vinci, Picasso, and more come to life through sound as Laura Schwendinger’s *The Artist’s Muse* paints a musical canvas of iconic female portraits in her West Coast premiere. Pulitzer Prize finalist Mary Kouyoumdjian’s *Moerae* (The Fates) takes a page from Greek mythology and a trio of sisters who determined the fates of every mortal, God, and Titan. Open *Terpsichore’s Box of Dreams*, and you will find a balletic fantasy inspired by the ancient Greek Muse and goddess of dancing, engaging in a virtuosic display of musical athleticism in its West Coast premiere from Augusta Read Thomas. Embark on this auditory journey that harnesses the power of the female voice, at none other than San Francisco’s Brava Theater for Women in the Arts.

Guest Artist: Kidra Scharich, mezzo soprano

PROGRAM

Laura Elise Schwendinger - *The Artist’s Muse* (2017, West Coast Premiere)

Emma Logan- *Mother Eve* (2024, World Premiere, San Francisco Arts Council Commission)

Mary Kouyoumdjian - *Moerae* (The Fates) (2010)

Augusta Read Thomas - *Terpsichore’s Box of Dreams* (2023, West Coast Premiere)

- ***"Tracing Paths"***

Saturday FEBRUARY 1, 2025

7:00 PM - "Under the Hood" Pre-Concert Talk

8:00 PM - Concert

Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall, SF Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak Street, San Francisco

Personal and cultural paths converge in this concert featuring voices familiar to the Bay Area music scene. Jonathan Bingham, on faculty at San Francisco Conservatory of Music, pays homage to the trend of visual artists—from Pablo Picasso to Jean-Michel Basquiat—in creating an *Untitled* piece of art, leaving the listener to draw their own conclusions. Former Contemporary Music Players Artistic Director Steven Schick returns as percussion soloist for the West Coast premiere of Zosha Di Castri's *Touch/Trace*, exploring the importance of intimacy and human contact in an increasingly isolated world. The poignant *No More*, a setting by Bay Area luminary Olly Wilson which first premiered with SFCMP in 1985, draws together texts by four South African poets who fought against apartheid for freedom and human dignity. SFCM student musicians will join forces with the ensemble in a side-by-side performance for Thomas Adès's vivacious and rhythmic *Chamber Symphony*. This captivating celebration of music and heritage is not to be missed!

Guest Artists: Steven Schick, percussionist; and Frederick A. Peterbark, tenor

PROGRAM

Jonathan Bingham - *Untitled* (2015)

Zosha Di Castri - *Touch/Trace* (2025, West Coast Premiere)

SF Conservatory of Music TAC Students - Two New works for Oboe, Cello, Percussion & Electronics (2025) - World Premieres)

Olly Wilson - *No More* (1985)

Thomas Adès - *Chamber Symphony*, Op. 2 (1990)

- ***"Northern Lights"***

Saturday APRIL 12, 2025

6:30 PM - "Under the Hood" Pre-Concert Talk

7:30 PM - Concert

Taube Atrium Theater, 401 Van Ness Avenue, 4th Floor, San Francisco

The celestial phenomenon of the "Northern Lights" is front and center in this journey through music, color, and light. Known for music that "fashions a fascinating mosaic of sonorities" (Strad Magazine), California composer and Swedish emigré Mika Pelo contributes a world premiere for chamber ensemble. Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho creates richly textured tapestries of orchestral color, using live electronics to extend the palettes of the acoustic instruments in her iridescent *Lichtbogen* (*Bows of Light*). Jesper Nordin's *Surfaces Scintillantes* adds a bit of shimmer and sparkle to this out-of-this-world musical event. *Jubilees* creates a celebration of sound with illumination and refraction in this piece from Finland's Magnus Lindberg. With cosmic lighting effects shining throughout the concert, be part of this immersive experience that dazzles the eyes, ears, and soul.

PROGRAM

Mika Pelo – *Working from a Postcard* (2025, World Premiere, SFCMP commission)

Kaija Saariaho - *Lichtbogen* (1985-86)

Jesper Nordin - *Surfaces Scintillantes* (2007)

Magnus Lindberg - *Jubilees* (2002)

- ***“Shared Rituals”***

Saturday MAY 10, 2025

In partnership with the Friction Quartet

6:30 PM – “Under the Hood” Pre-Concert Talk

7:00 PM - Prelude Concert (featuring the Friction Quartet)

8:00 PM – Main Concert

Brava Theater, 2781 24th Street, San Francisco

Delve into the communal and transformative power of music in this season finale featuring the music of Latinx composers. The Bay Area-based and internationally-acclaimed Friction Quartet joins guest vocalists in a prelude performance featuring Paul Mortilla’s *Paradisio: Weavers of Light*, depicting “the journey of the soul ascending through the various spheres of the universe.” SFCM Players take the stage for the polyrhythmic groove of Tania León’s *Indígena*, conjuring the spirit of the *comparsa*, a group of masked revelers who roam the streets of Spain and Latin America during carnival season. Ana Lara’s intimate *Y los oros la Luz* provides a tranquil reflection, while the West Coast premiere of Miguel Chuaqui’s *Tiempo Norte, Tiempo Sur* dances with the unique harmonic and rhythmic gestures of jazz, juxtaposed with folk rhythms and melodies from Latin America. Gabriela Ortiz’s *Corpórea* “describes an oscillation between our material existence and our most spiritual condition,” concluding the concert in a flash of brilliance and vivacity. Experience an evening of profound connection as we explore the rituals that bind us together through sound and performance.

Guest Artists: Friction Quartet; Sun Chang, piano/harpsichord; Cara Gabrielson, soprano; Mindy Ella Chu, mezzo-soprano; Eric Dudley, tenor; and Ryan Bradford, baritone

PROGRAM

Prelude

PAUL MORTILLA - *Paradisio: Weavers of Light* (2024)

Featuring the Friction Quartet and Sun Chang, piano/harpsichord

Main Concert

Tania León - *Indígena* (1991)

Ana Lara - *Y los oros la Luz* (2008, U.S. premiere)

Miguel Chuaqui - *Tiempo Norte, Tiempo Sur* (2008, West Coast premiere)

Gabriela Ortiz - *Corpórea* (2014, West Coast premiere)

ARTZenter INSTITUTE EMERGING COMPOSER PROGRAM

WORLD PREMIERES, PUBLIC READINGS and LAB SESSIONS

Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 7:30PM

Friday, January 17, 2025 at 7:30PM

Friday, June 20, 2025 at 7:30PM

Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Free admission!

The Contemporary Music Players is proud to continue its partnership with ARTZenter Institute on the Emerging Composers Grant Program. Congratulations to the 12 composers chosen from the 2024-2025 Emerging Composer Completion Grant Program, a collaboration of San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and the ARTZenter Institute, encouraging the creation of new music by emerging composers that explores the power and grace of the traditional orchestral ensemble. Now in its second year, each concert

will feature six newly completed works for chamber orchestra. Be part of history as this program continues to evolve into one of the nation's largest and most ambitious vehicles in support of new work!

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Guest Artist: Kindra Scharich, mezzo soprano

Mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich has been praised by the San Francisco Chronicle for her "fearless technical precision," "deep-rooted pathos" and "irrepressible musical splendor." As a dedicated recitalist, she has performed more than 250 art songs in 15 languages, and enjoys the full complement of recital, concert and opera engagements alike. Ms. Scharich has sung more than 40 roles from Monteverdi to Philip Glass, and been engaged in a number of premières and new works, including: John Adam's *Antony & Cleopatra* (San Francisco Opera), Bright Sheng's *Dream of the Red Chamber* (San Francisco Opera) Laura Kaminsky's *Today it Rains* (Opera Parallèle) and Missy Mazzoli's *Breaking the Waves* (West Edge Opera, west coast première) Scharich's recordings include: "*In meinem Himmel: The Mahler Song Cycles*" with the Alexander String Quartet (2018), "*To my Distant Beloved*" with pianist Jeffrey LaDeur (2020) and "*Chosen Eyes*" with pianist Ricardo Ballesterro (2021).

Guest Artist: Steven Schick, percussionist

Percussionist, conductor, and author Steven Schick was born in Iowa and raised in a farming family. Hailed by Alex Ross in the New Yorker as, "one of our supreme living virtuosos, not just of percussion but of any instrument," he has championed contemporary percussion music by commissioning or premiering more than one hundred-fifty new works. The most important of these have become core repertory for solo percussion. Schick was inducted into the Percussive Arts Society Hall of Fame in 2014.

Steven Schick is artistic director of the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus and former artistic director of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players. As a conductor, he has appeared with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Milwaukee Symphony, Ensemble Modern, the International Contemporary Ensemble, and the Asko/Schönberg Ensemble.

Guest Artist: Frederick A. Paterbark, tenor

Frederick A. Peterbark recently sang the first tenor solo in Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* with the Case Western University Symphony & Chorus, and the tenor solos of Handel's *Messiah* with the Bluffton Choral Society. He has also performed as a guest artist with the Estes Park Music Festival, Helena Choral Week, Boulder Opera, Ars Nova Singers, the Elgin Master Chorale, and the Singers' Club of Cleveland. In addition, Fred has toured nationally and internationally with The Cornerstone Chorale & Brass, and *Musikanten*. His performance highlights include Lensky in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, Pasék in Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, and Brother Bates in the restoration premiere of James P. Johnson's *De Organizer*. Fred earned his master's degree from the University of Colorado Boulder, and bachelor's from the University of Michigan, where he studied with Metropolitan Opera tenor, George Shirley. Having recently relocating to California, Fred now serves as the Assistant Dean for Conservatory Admissions and Director of the Pacific Community Music School at University of the Pacific's Conservatory of Music in Stockton.

Guest Artists: Friction Quartet

Friction Quartet, lauded for performances described as "terribly beautiful" (San Francisco Classical Voice), "stunningly passionate" (Calgary Herald), and "exquisitely skilled" (ZealNYC), is dedicated to modernizing the chamber music experience and expanding the string quartet repertoire. The quartet achieves its mission by commissioning cutting-edge composers, curating imaginative concert programs, collaborating with diverse artists, and engaging in interactive educational outreach.

Friction made their debut at Carnegie Hall in 2016 as participants in the Kronos Quartet Fifty for the Future Workshop. They returned in March of 2018 to perform George Crumb's *Black Angels* as part of "The 60's" festival and their performance was described as, "one of the truest and most moving things I've ever heard or seen." (Zeal NYC) Since forming in 2011, Friction has commissioned 47 works for string

quartet and given world premiere performances of more than 100 works. They developed the Friction Commissioning Initiative in 2017 as a way to work together with their audience to fund specific commissions. The money raised to date has helped Friction commission a total of 12 new works, including six by young composers between the ages of 16 and 21.

Eric Dudley, SFCMP Artistic Director & Conductor

Born in Toronto and raised in Connecticut, Eric Dudley leads a multi-faceted career as a conductor, composer, vocalist, and pianist deeply engaged in the performance and creation of contemporary music. Since its founding in 2009, Eric has been a member of the genre-defying vocal octet Roomful of Teeth, touring worldwide and recording a wide array of newly commissioned works with the Grammy Award-winning ensemble. He moved to the Bay Area in 2016 to oversee the orchestra program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, becoming the next Artistic Director for the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players in 2017. Eric also serves as one of the principal conductors for the Bendigo Festival of Exploratory Music in Australia, and recently led Roomful of Teeth and Ensemble L'Instant Donné in a production with Peter Sellars at the Paris Festival d'Automne.

While living in New York City, Eric conducted and performed with organizations as diverse as Ekmeles and TENET vocal ensembles, the Choir of Trinity Wall Street, Talea Ensemble, American Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Signal and the New York Philharmonic. He was an assistant conductor for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra under Paavo Järvi and the Princeton Symphony Orchestra under Rossen Milanov for several seasons, and some of his recent guest engagements include the Ojai Festival in California, International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE) in New York and Finland, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra in Australia, and the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center.

A passionate educator, Eric was on the faculty of Mannes College of Music at the The New School in New York, where he directed the Mannes Prep Philharmonic and The New School Chorus, as well as leading the orchestra in concert and teaching the graduate conducting students at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music for three years. He is currently on the faculty of The University of the Pacific's Conservatory of Music, where he teaches voice, composition, and coaches and conducts the Pacific Opera Theatre productions and the student-run new music ensemble 28/78.

As a pianist and chamber musician, he has performed with members of Novus New York and the Cincinnati and Princeton symphony orchestras. His own music has been premiered and recorded by the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, Quey Percussion Duo, and by Roomful of Teeth.

Eric holds a bachelor's degree in composition from the Eastman School of Music, and master's and doctorate degrees in orchestral conducting from Yale, where he was the recipient of the Dean's Prize. He lives in Walnut Creek, California with his wife Melanie and their son Ethan.

San Francisco Contemporary Music Players

San Francisco Contemporary Music Players is the West Coast's most long-standing and largest new music ensemble comprised of highly skilled musicians performing innovative contemporary music. The Contemporary Music Players nourish the creation and dissemination of new works through world-class performances, commissions, and community and education programs. The Players perform the music of composers from across cultures and stylistic traditions who are creating a vast and vital 21st-century musical language featuring the work of iconic and emerging composers while shining a spotlight on large-ensemble pieces and California artists. The Players seek to share these experiences with as many people as possible, both in and outside of traditional concert settings.

The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players is one of the most active ensembles in the United States dedicated to contemporary music and play an important role in the regional and national cultural landscape. The Contemporary Music Players are a 2018 awardee of the esteemed Fromm Foundation Ensemble Prize, and a ten-time winner of the CMA/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming. The

Players have performed more than 1,200 works by over 600 composers; Over 300 of these performances have been premieres, and the organization has commissioned over 80 major works including pieces from composers such as [John Adams](#), [John Cage](#), [Earle Brown](#), [Olly Wilson](#), [Michael Gordon](#), [Du Yun](#), [Myra Melford](#), and [Julia Wolfe](#). The Contemporary Players have been presented by leading cultural festivals and concert series including San Francisco Performances, Los Angeles Monday Evening Concerts, Cal Performances, the Stern Grove Festival, the Festival of New American Music at CSU Sacramento, the Ojai Festival, and France's prestigious MANCA Festival.

In 1971, composer [Charles Boone](#) began organizing a series of avant-garde music concerts in San Francisco art galleries. He called the series BYOP (Bring Your Own Pillow), because audience members sat on the floor. Three years later, his colleagues, harpist Marcella DeCray and oboist/conductor Jean-Louis LeRoux, reorganized the concert series as a nonprofit corporation. Since its inception, San Francisco Contemporary Music Players have been led by seven Executive Directors, and eight Artistic Directors, with continuous support and oversight by an active Board of Directors.

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

SFCMP ENSEMBLE ROSTER

FLUTE

Tod Brody

OBOE

Kyle Bruckman
Sarah Rathke

CLARINET

Jeff Anderle
Peter Josheff

BASSOON

Jamel Smith

HORN

Alicia Telford

TRUMPET

Adam Luftman

TROMBONE

Brendan Lai-Tong

TUBA

Peter Wahrhaftig

PERCUSSION

Haruka Fujii

PIANO

Kate Campbell
Allegra Chapman

GUITAR

David Tanenbaum

VIOLIN

Hrabba Altadottir
Susan Freier
Kevin Rogers

VIOLA

Meena Bhasin

CELLO

Stephen Harrison
Douglas Machiz

CONTRABASS

Richard Worn