



SAN FRANCISCO
CONTEMPORARY
MUSIC PLAYERS

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SFCMP Opens 2017 with Adventurous Works by Festinger, Pisaro, Soper, and a Rare Performance of Ligeti's *Chamber Concerto*

SAN FRANCISCO (December 19, 2016) – **San Francisco Contemporary Music Players (SFCMP)** will greet 2017 with a daring, large-scale program featuring works by composers Richard Festinger, Michael Pisaro, Kate Soper, and György Ligeti. The event takes place at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Concert Hall at 50 Oak Street in San Francisco on Friday, January 20, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. Preceding the concert is SFCMP's *How Music Is Made*, a composer insights program featuring an open dress rehearsal from 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. and a composer talk with composers Kate Soper and Richard Festinger facilitated by 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 further invited to attend a pre-concert discussion with Schick and SFCMP musicians at 6:45 p.m. Tickets for the concert are on sale now.

This concert features Ligeti's *Chamber Concerto*, a modern classic, as well as the world premiere of an SFCMP-commissioned work for ensemble and voice from San Francisco composer Richard Festinger, *Careless Love*. Complementing these works are Michael Pisaro's innovative percussion piece *ricefall* and Kate Soper's voice-and-ensemble *Door*. The evening's richly varied program will offer an engaging interplay of musical elements to delight audiences.

Offering his comments on the bold program, Schick said, "We look to music as an agent of transformation -- especially in uncertain times. On January 20, as always, we'll do our best to make fearless pieces of new and provocative music. A world premiere is the greatest sign of optimism we can offer, since it necessarily envisions future audiences and artists."

The performance of Festinger's *Careless Love* (2016), for baritone, clarinet, horn, violin, viola, cello, and piano, will feature baritone Daniel Cilli. The song cycle on the theme of the darker side of love, which sets to music texts by American poet A.E. Stallings, is Festinger's first for solo male voice.

Pisaro's extraordinary work *ricefall* (2010) spotlights 16 players arrayed on stage with a wide variety of resonant media, including metal, wood, stone, paper, and ceramic objects, onto which grains of rice—whether as singular grains or as continuous, rainfall-like streams—are dropped in an invocation of the voices of nature.

Door (2010) by virtuoso vocalist, writer and composer Kate Soper, whose work explores the integration of drama and rhetoric into musical structure, is an innovative composition for soprano, flute, tenor sax, accordion, and electric guitar. The performance will feature Amy Foote as soprano.

Concluding the program is Ligeti's *Chamber Concerto* (1969), a work for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, tenor trombone, harpsichord/Hammond organ, piano/celeste, violin, viola, cello, and double bass, is a modern classic. Rarely performed, it features the voices of 13 concertante soloists.

The January 20 concert is part of SFCMP's concert series called *In the Laboratory*, which showcases large-scale contemporary classical works that push the boundaries of the concert format and experience. *In the Laboratory* is one of SFCMP's three established concert series, the other two being the *On Stage* series, which brings to the stage some of the most influential national and international contemporary classical composers of the 20th and 21st centuries, 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.

As part of its dedication to encouraging and mentoring the next generation of new music performers, SFCMP will feature San Francisco Conservatory of Music students on this program.

Tickets for the event are \$35 for general admission and \$15 for students. For more information on tickets and to learn more about upcoming concerts in the 2016-17 series framework, 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>.