



SAN FRANCISCO
CONTEMPORARY
MUSIC PLAYERS

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**SFCMP to Present Stravinsky's *Soldier's Tale* and New Work "Lover's War" by
Trumpeter Peter Evans**

*"Lover's War" Responds to Stravinsky's L'Histoire du Soldat with Ruminations on the Role of the
Artist*

SAN FRANCISCO (January 30, 2017) – **San Francisco Contemporary Music Players (SFCMP)** announces its upcoming concert and conversation with composer and trumpet virtuoso Peter Evans on February 17, 2017, at the Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. The evening concert will offer a departure from the usual way of presenting Igor Stravinsky's iconic *L'Histoire du Soldat* (1918), now approaching its centennial. Performed alongside *L'Histoire du Soldat* will be Evans' new work *Lover's War* (2016), created as a contemporary response to Stravinsky's work. 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. as well as a composer talk with Evans, facilitated by Artistic Director Steven Schick from 4:30 - 5:20 p.m. Both of these *How Music Is Made* afternoon events are free and open to the public. Ticketholders are further invited to attend an evening pre-concert discussion with Schick and SFCMP musicians at 6:45 p.m. Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. concert are on sale now.

Performing with Evans on various movements of *Lover's War* will include a number of exceptionally talented improvisers, including special guests Ritwik Banerji (tenor saxophone), Nava Dunkelman (percussion), and India Cooke (violin) as well as SFCMP's own Kyle Bruckmann (oboe) and William Winant and Steven Schick on percussion. *Lover's War* contains text interpolations from "The Creative Process" by American novelist, essayist and social critic James Baldwin.

Providing context for his work, Evans commented, "Considering the dire situation we find our society in right now, I wanted to make a piece that responded to the *Histoire's* theme of war with something more timely. Using James Baldwin's essay "The Creative Process" and a sequence of dedications, I am collaborating with six creative musicians to make a spontaneous composition that ruminates on the larger role of an artist, alternating text and music. The musicians' individual voices will be an integral part of the composition itself. The group is made of some of the Bay Area's finest improvisers. Personally I am thrilled to be performing in the Bay Area for the first time in nearly a decade."

Stravinsky's classic *L'Histoire du Soldat* will feature Hrabba Atladottir on violin; Richard Worn on bass; Jeff Anderle on clarinet; Dana Jessen on bassoon; Brad Hogarth on trumpet; Brendan Lai-Tong on trombone, and Christopher Froh on percussion.

Schick observed, "We celebrate the centennial (2018) of Igor Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* with a novel

treatment of the musical and social roots of the piece. *L'Histoire* drew inspiration from early jazz, the African-American idiom of its time, and was one of the first pieces to borrow—capitalize on, one could say—that music. By interpolating improvisations from some of the Bay Area's most formidable improvisers, we return *L'Histoire* to its roots. What will Stravinsky have to say to contemporary improvisers? Let's find out."

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

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>.