



SAN FRANCISCO  
**CONTEMPORARY**  
MUSIC PLAYERS

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## **Steven Schick Extends Tenure as SFCMP Artistic Director Through 2017-18 Concert Season**

SAN FRANCISCO (February 1, 2017) – **San Francisco Contemporary Music Players (SFCMP)** announces that Artistic Director Steven Schick has renewed his appointment with the organization through the 2017-18 season. Schick has led SFCMP, San Francisco's most longstanding and largest new music organization, since 2011 as its seventh artistic director. During his tenure he has helped the organization achieve standout performances such as the Sweet Thunder Festival (2014), the TenFourteen Season (2014-15), and the Crissy Broadcast (2013). Over his years with the organization, Schick has also developed a series of commissions for SFCMP, created an effective synergy with players and the board of directors around institutional issues, and brought on board the next generation of extraordinary performers.

Schick, an internationally renowned percussionist, conductor, and author, is Distinguished Professor of Music at UC San Diego, holding the Reed Family Presidential Chair in Music at the University of California, San Diego. He is also the Music Director of the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, Co-Artistic Director of Banff Centre's Summer Music Program, and a much-sought-after percussionist of global stature. For the past forty years, Schick 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 also founder and Artistic Director of the percussion group, "red fish blue fish."

Schick commented, "The seven years I have spent as artistic director of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players have provided some of the most electrifying musical experiences of my life. The players are extraordinary—dedicated, talented, and capable of delivering deep emotion in concert. It has been a privilege to have been a part of the vibrant musical scene in San Francisco. I am thrilled about the extension of my appointment and look forward to another wonderful season of music-making."

Schick further noted that the demands on his schedule contributed to his difficult decision to continue with SFCMP for just one more season.

SFCMP Board President, Don Blais, commented, "I cannot express well enough how much it has meant to have Steve's artistic leadership these past several years. The programming and performances have been outstanding and have showcased our venerable organization. As a performer and conductor, Steve has a very special connection with the Players that we all feel in the performances. This is not an immediate farewell message, as we look forward to our many upcoming opportunities to experience terrific concerts with Steve through April 2018."

SFCMP Executive Director Lisa Oman commented, "Steve brings artistic vibrancy to the organization. He's the kind of creative leader that every successful musician wants to work with. His standards are high, and in turn he elevates the entire organization with him."

Details of the 2017-18 season will be announced in early spring of this year at the SFCMP Sound & Wine Celebration on March 25, held at 3:00 at Schroeder's, 240 Front Street in San Francisco. Tickets for this event will soon go on sale.

The Board and Players have formed a Search Committee to recruit and appoint SFCMP's next artistic director, who will be the eighth in the organization's 46-year history. The job announcement and contact information will be published by mid-February 2017 on SFCMP's website.

### **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>.