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SFCMP Appoints Eric Dudley as New Artistic Director *Audiences to Gain First Preview of Dudley's Passion and Musical Savvy in 2018-19 Season*

SAN FRANCISCO (June 5, 2017) – **San Francisco Contemporary Music Players (SFCMP)** announces with great pleasure that Eric Dudley has been appointed as its next artistic director, beginning in the 2018-19 season. Dudley's appointment follows that of current SFCMP Artistic Director Steven Schick, who has been the organization's artistic director since the 2011-12 season.

Eric Dudley enjoys a multifaceted musical career as a talented conductor, vocalist, pianist, and composer. After distinguished tenures as Assistant Conductor for both the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra under Paavo Järvi and the Princeton Symphony under Rossen Milanov, he recently held the post of Principal Conductor for the Bendigo Festival of Exploratory Music in Australia and the Adelphi Chamber Orchestra in New Jersey. He is currently Music Director of the San Francisco Conservatory Orchestra. Among his latest guest conducting engagements are the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, Connecticut's Hartford Symphony Orchestra, the International Contemporary Ensemble at the Ojai Festival, Ensemble Signal and TENET in New York City, and the Melbourne International Arts Festival.

Speaking on behalf of the organization, SFCMP Vice President and Search Committee Chair Kit Sharma commented, "We are absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to work with Eric Dudley, a Bay Area resident, especially in light of the fact that he maintains a busy schedule of performances throughout the country and the world."

SFCMP Board President Don Blais echoed Sharma's enthusiasm, adding, "It is wonderful to have Eric joining SFCMP's leadership team. He brings great passion and energy to our mission of delivering contemporary music to the San Francisco community. We look forward to an exciting, fruitful relationship."

In 2009, Dudley became a founding member of the adventurous vocal octet Roomful of Teeth, whose debut album received a 2014 Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance. For eight years, Dudley also sang in the acclaimed Choir of Trinity Wall Street in New York, where in addition to his ensemble and solo work he prepared the choir for performances at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, performed as a pianist and harpsichordist with Trinity's contemporary ensemble, Novus NY, and served as assistant and guest conductor for a number of the Trinity Choir and Baroque Orchestra's concert offerings.

Born in Canada and raised in Connecticut, Dudley received his Bachelor's degree from the Eastman School of Music in 2001, studying composition with Joseph Schwantner, Augusta Read Thomas and Christopher Rouse; voice with Robert McIver; and piano and continuo with Vincent Lenti and Paul O'Dette. Dudley holds Master's and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in orchestral conducting from Yale University's School of Music.

"I'm honored and thrilled beyond words to be chosen as the next artistic director of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players," said Dudley. "The group's long-standing dedication to bringing the most vital music of our time to the Bay Area and beyond sets it apart as something rare and wonderful, and out of my own strong conviction for that mission, I look forward to working with the outstanding musicians and with everyone involved to explore an exciting future together."

The Players are enthused about Dudley's appointment. Said flutist Tod Brody, "In Eric Dudley, SFCMP has chosen an energetic and eloquent communicator and a very talented musician and conductor. I'm very happy to welcome him as the group's new Artistic Director."

SFCMP Executive Director Lisa Oman highlighted some of the key skills that Dudley will be sharing with the organization. "Eric demonstrates exceptional passion, interpersonal skills, and musical savvy, and he also thoroughly enjoys engaging with the public. SFCMP audiences will have their first preview of Eric at our January 2018 concert events, where he will facilitate our composer talk and pre-concert discussions."

Subscriptions to the 2017-18 season are now available for purchase at www.sfcmp.org.

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.

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