



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **San Francisco Contemporary Music Players Announces Its 49th Season**

**SAN FRANCISCO (April 30, 2019)** – San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and Artistic Director Eric Dudley announce their 49th season, running from September 2019 through April 2020. The season includes five world premieres, numerous multi-media offerings, distinguished visiting and local guest artists and composers, and several special events and community engagement activities at four different venues across the season in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Mainstage presentations at the Cowell Theater at Fort Mason Cultural Center, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and at The Flight Deck in downtown Oakland will be supplemented by community activity at the Womens' Building in San Francisco's Mission district, and by SFCMP's annual masterclass series and educational programs.

In addition, SFCMP is thrilled to announce the first participants in a new series of creative partnerships, naming four preeminent artists as Creative Advisors for the period of 2019-2021. Joining forces with the Contemporary Players as collaborators, commissioned composers and guest performers will be vocalist, instrumentalist and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **CAROLINE SHAW**, Guggenheim Fellow, composer, and member of SF Jazz Collective **EDWARD SIMON**, MacArthur Grant recipient, composer, and performer **TYSHAWN SOREY**, and Bay Area multi-artist and recent Rome Prize recipient **PAMELA Z**. Over the course of the 2019-2020 through 2021-2022 seasons, these four stellar artists will appear as part of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players' season offerings, and will add their voice in helping to shape the artistic trajectory of the ensemble in conjunction with Artistic Director Eric Dudley. SFCMP is honored and exhilarated to name these extremely distinguished artists as Creative Advisors through its initiation of a new series of such partnerships.

#### **2019-2020 Season Highlights Include:**

**The world premiere of a site-responsive, concert-length work by MICHAEL GORDON commissioned by SFCMP**

- Written for and performed by **SFCMP, ROOMFUL OF TEETH, SPLINTER REEDS**

**A community music event featuring the work of Bay Area composer VIVIAN FUNG and including a participatory, group composition designed by JASON TREUTING**

**A multi-media exploration of the work and influence of JOHN CAGE and MERCE CUNNINGHAM, in the season of the 100th anniversary of Cunningham's birth**

- Featuring SFCMP pianist **KATE CAMPBELL** as soloist, with special guest artist and dancer **ANTOINE HUNTER**, founder and artistic director of the Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival, and with performances of works by **ANNA CLYNE** and Bay Area composers **GLORIA JUSTEN** and **DAVID COLL**

**A cross-generational celebration of the music of LOUIS ANDRIESEN in his 80th year**

- Including the world premiere of a new multi-media commission by Australian composer **DAVID CHISHOLM**, and with works by **MISSY MAZZOLI, ANGELICA NEGRÓN**, students from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's Technology and Applied Composition program, and the winner of SFCMP's annual *SF Search for Scores*

## The 2019-2020 Season

### on **STAGE** series

#### **Oceanic Migrations**

**SAT, SEP 14, 2019**

**7:00pm Panel | 8:00pm Concert | Post-concert Party**

at Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Cultural Center, San Francisco

Serving as a remembrance and reflection on the experiences of those detained and processed at San Francisco's Angel Island Immigration Station, our 49th season begins with the world premiere of a concert-length, site-responsive piece by Bang-On-A-Can composer and co-founder Michael **GORDON**. This new work premieres at Cowell Theater, in view of the Golden Gate Bridge, with a special presentation on Angel Island in the San Francisco Bay that afternoon. Grammy Award-winning vocal octet **ROOMFUL OF TEETH**, and Bay Area reed quintet **SPLINTER REEDS** join SFCMP in this memorable work for twenty-one players. Pre-concert discussions will take place with Gordon, historians, archivists, and Bay Area residents who have personal experiences connected to the history of Angel Island.

### **SFCMP MASTERCLASS** series

#### **Contemporary Music Masterclass**

**NOV, TBD 2019 7:30pm**

at San Francisco Conservatory of Music

**Prepared Piano Techniques and Performances**

**Clinician Kate Campbell, SFCMP Pianist**

In SFCMP's Masterclass series, audiences can observe some of the most talented Bay Area pre-professional musicians in live interaction, performance, and coaching with our renowned ensemble members. Students will perform selected works while being mentored in the techniques, skills, and myriad styles of contemporary music. This season's class will showcase performances of the techniques used by John Cage in *Sonatas and Interludes for Prepared Piano* and is led by SFCMP pianist, Kate **CAMPBELL**.

### in the **COMMUNITY** series

#### **Celebration of the Elements**

**SUN, DEC 8, 2019 3:00pm - 4:30 pm**

at The Women's Building, San Francisco

This family-friendly winter celebration begins with the visceral and reflective piece, *The Ice is Talking* by Vivian **FUNG**. Scored for solo percussion and electronics, it is in essence a celebration of the elements, taking in the beauty of gliding through ice as taps and swishes shape into virtuosic rhythmic patterns and end with dramatic flair, in the hope of raising awareness to the world around us. As the ice melts away, we create a "community-made" piece designed by Jason **TREUTING**, a member of the acclaimed So Percussion Quartet, titled *How to (Blank)*. Audience members fill in the blanks with headlines captured from the day's (good) news to add to the festive atmosphere.

### in the **LABORATORY** series

#### **Kinetic Transformations**

**FRI, JAN 17, 2020**

**6:30pm How Music is Made | 8:00pm Concert | Post-concert Party**

Hume Concert Hall, SF Conservatory of Music, San Francisco

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of celebrated choreographer Merce Cunningham's birth, as well as his long and prolific partnership with California composer John **CAGE**, we feature the brilliantly unconventional *Concert for Piano and Orchestra*, a work composed by Cage specifically for a Cunningham dance piece. Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival founder and director Antoine **HUNTER** joins us in performance with a riveting original choreography to complement the piece. Composers Gloria **JUSTEN**, David **COLL**, Henry **COWELL**, and Anna **CLYNE** round out the program in an exploration of auditory, visual, and dance elements.

at the **CROSSROADS** series

*Prismatic Reflections*

**FRI, MAR 27, 2020 (San Francisco) and SAT, MAR 28, 2020 (Oakland)**

**6:30pm How Music is Made | 8:00pm Concert | Post-concert Party**

**Fri, Mar 27** at Sol Joseph Recital Hall, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, San Francisco

**Sat, Mar 28** at The Flight Deck, Oakland

In the season of his 80th birthday, Dutch composer Louis **ANDRIESSEN** remains an enduring and influential voice for multiple schools of composition, owing to his own ecumenical and self-reinventing approach. Elements of jazz, rock-pop and European High Modernism converge in his music to create a language both startling and familiar. Two of his more intimate and lesser-known pieces will anchor two programs that showcase the generational voices of New York-based Missy **MAZZOLI** and Puerto Rican-born Angelica **NEGRÓN**, alongside the winner of SFCMP's annual *SF Search for Scores* educational program for composers under 30, who will write for a duo of players drawn from the instrumental forces of one of Andriessen's more recent multi-media works. The concert also features the generational voice and world premiere of an SFCMP commission by Australian composer David **CHISHOLM**, responding to the post-High Modernist and multimedia strains of Andriessen's work with a piece to be structured as a series of micro-concertos for a collection of instruments on the lowest end of the registral spectrum, coupled with electronics and deriving its inspiration from the realm of film. To bring the generational portrait into the immediate present, the series includes two works from a collaboration with the Technology and Applied Composition department at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

in the **COMMUNITY** series

*Sound & Wine: Season Launch Party and Chamber Concert*

**SAT, APR 25, 2020 2:30pm - 4:30pm**

At Bluxome Street Winery, San Francisco

Each spring, our most dedicated fans become our celebrated virtuosi at a party hosted by SFCMP musicians. Together, we share in the joy of community, contemporary music, and our favorite thing, performance. Sound & Wine is a party dedicated to our biggest fans: our supporters, donors, subscribers, and members. We invite you to bring your music-loving friends, and together we'll revisit highlights from the current season, and you'll be the first to hear what's happening in the year ahead.

### **SFCMP EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS 2019-20**

SFCMP helps develop emerging audiences for contemporary music through the education and mentorship of emerging composers and musicians alike. SFCMP's education programs include *How Music is Made* composer talks and music demonstrations, contemporary music master classes with SFCMP Musicians, a *Side by Side* professional development program for college music students, and a high school student scholarship for study with a contemporary composer and performance by SFCMP.

#### **Side by Side Professional Development - Performance**

Pre-professional students join our ensemble for a week of rehearsals which culminate in a performance on a subscription-series concert.

#### **Side by Side Professional Development - Composition**

Pre-professional composers write for and collaborate with one of our ensemble members for a semester of rehearsals which culminate in a performance on a subscription-series concert.

#### **SFCMP Contemporary Music Masterclass**

Pre-professional music students learn from our renowned ensemble members in front of a live audience. Students perform selected works while being mentored in the techniques, skills, and myriad styles of contemporary music.

## How Music is Made

In the afternoon before each concert, we invite the public to join us for music demonstrations, followed by a discussion about the work with the composer, followed by the full concert that evening.

2019-20 composers in residence:

Sept 2019 composer Michael Gordon

Jan 2019 composer David Coll and Gloria Justen

Mar 2020 composer David Chisholm

## Victor Salvo Music Composition Scholarship

Each year, one San Francisco Bay Area high school music student wins 5 hours of mentoring sessions with an advising professional composer, a private score reading by San Francisco Contemporary Music Players of the student's work, feedback from the musicians, and a video recording of the reading.

## SF Search for Scores

Each season, emerging composers submit scores that speak to the life and legacy of our headlining spring-concert composer. One winning composer under 30 receives a score reading and feedback session with SFCMP, a public performance on the spring-series concert, and an archival recording. In addition the winning composers receive a \$1,000 stipend.

## About Eric Dudley, SFCMP Artistic Director

<http://sfcmp.org/press-kits/>



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 the past three years. He has recently been appointed to an ongoing Artist-in-Residence position at the Conservatory of Music at the University of the Pacific in Stockton.

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 infant son Ethan.

### About 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.

For more information, and hi-resolution images visit [SFCMP.org/press-kits/](#)  
Biographies of SFCMP ensemble members can be accessed online at: [sfcmp.org/category/players](#).