

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Lisa Oman, Executive Director
press@sfcmp.org | (415) 633-8802
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San Francisco Contemporary Music Players Announces Its 50th Season

SAN FRANCISCO (April 27, 2020) – San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and Artistic Director Eric Dudley announce their 50th anniversary season, running from October 2020 through April 2021. This milestone season offers the work of 26 composers with 7 from California, 2 large-scale commissioning projects, 7 distinct world, U.S. or West Coast premieres with a spotlight on large ensemble works, and several special events and community engagement activities at five different venues across the season in the city of San Francisco and its principal neighborhoods. Mainstage presentations at the Atrium Theater at The War Memorial, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and the ODC Theater in the Mission District will be augmented by community and celebratory activities in the gallery spaces of Root Division and ArtHaus SF, and by the Contemporary Players' annual masterclass series and educational programs.

In addition, SF Contemporary Players is thrilled to be presenting the work of three preeminent artists from its group of Creative Advisors over the course of the season. Joining forces with the Contemporary Players will be vocalist, instrumentalist and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **CAROLINE SHAW**, MacArthur Grant recipient, composer, and multi-instrumentalist **TYSHAWN SOREY**, and multi-talented Bay Area artist and recent Rome Prize recipient **PAMELA Z**. These stellar artists will appear as collaborators, commissioned composers and guest performers on the 50th season subscription concerts, adding their voices to a wide array of programming that will showcase the collective and individual virtuosity of the Contemporary Players' roster of outstanding musicians, and will celebrate the mission, history and future of this long-standing ensemble.

2020-2021 Season Highlights Include:

A world premiere work by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer CAROLINE SHAW, commissioned by SFCMP

- Written for and performed by SFCMP with sound artist and vocalist **Pamela Z**, on Bay Area poetry

An exclusive celebratory evening at ArtHaus SF with contemporary art viewings, open bar and passed hors d'oeuvres, special presentations and intimate performances by the virtuoso musicians of SFCMP

A free community music event featuring the inaugural collaboration between SFCMP and the Center for New Music and Audio Technologies at U.C. Berkeley, presenting the work of three CNMAT-affiliated composers

An electro-acoustic exploration of the elements of Rock inspired by the appearance of FRANK ZAPPA as guest conductor for SFCMP in the '80's

- With SFCMP percussionist **WILLIAM WINANT** and Bay Area luminary **FRED FRITH** as featured performers, the West Coast premieres of ensemble pieces by **DONNACHA DENNEHY** and San Francisco native **MARY KOUYOUMDJIAN**, and the world premieres of works by students in the Technology and Applied Composition Program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music

A cross-generational celebration of the music of OLLY WILSON in commemoration of his life and relationship with SFCMP

- Including the world premiere of a new SFCMP and Ensemble Intercontemporain co-commission by **TYSHAWN SOREY**, alongside works by **OLLY WILSON**, **TOMEKA REID**, and the winner of SFCMP's annual *SF Search for Scores*

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The 2020-2021 50th Anniversary Season

on **STAGE** series

Voices in Reverberation

SAT OCT 10, 2020

7:00pm How Music is Made | 8:00pm Concert | Post-concert Party
at Taube Atrium Theater, San Francisco

For our **on STAGE series** and the opening concert of a landmark 50th anniversary season, we shine a spotlight on West Coast composers and celebrate some of the brightest luminaries from the Bay Area. Resident rockstar **John Adams** demonstrates his technical prowess in the riveting, virtuoso large ensemble work *Son of Chamber Symphony*. We experience a new work by **Caroline Shaw**, commissioned by San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, written for instrumental quartet and celebrated Bay Area sound artist and vocalist **Pamela Z** on poetry of Bay Area origin. The hyper-talented **Amadeus Regucera** thrills us with textual utterances and deep breaths in his trio piece *Inexpressible*, and Los Angeles' **Andrew Norman** takes us on a sonic journey for solo violin visiting the interior light of the Basilica of Saint Sabina.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

50th Celebration and Benefit Concert

SUN NOV 15, 2020, 6-10 pm

Single tickets on sale in July: \$125 General / \$100 Subscribers/Members
at ArtHaus, San Francisco

For many years, the Contemporary Players' activities have explored the intersections between music and visual art with performances in the museums and galleries of the city. In celebration with **ArtHaus SF**, we revive that experience in our 50th season through a unique event that includes curated art viewing in this privately-owned gallery, mingling with open bar and passed hors d'oeuvres, special presentations, and an intimate concert highlighting the solo and chamber music artistry of players from SFCMP's roster of virtuosi, sharing works by celebrated living composers that are among their personal favorite 'party pieces,' and in some cases were written specifically for them. *Limited to 60 spots only*, this exclusive evening with the Contemporary Players, in commemoration of the 50th season and in support of many more ahead, is an historic, one-of-a-kind event that will sell out fast.

in the **COMMUNITY** series

Sound Encounters in collaboration with CNMAT, UC Berkeley

SUN DEC 6, 2020 3-4:30pm

at Root Division, San Francisco

For our December **in the COMMUNITY** series, we invite everyone to experience sound art in an installation-style setting while we capture sonic material for a community-driven time capsule to celebrate SFCMP's 50th. SFCMP percussionist **William Winant** kicks off the program with his uniquely personal interpretation of **James Tenney's** *Koan: Having Never Written a Note for Percussion*, followed by performances of the work of three of the Bay Area's leading sound artists from the Center for New Music and Audio Technologies: **Maija Hynninen**, **Jon Kulpa**, and **Jon Yu**. Take a break from the holidays and join us for live music, conversation, snacks, and drinks to enliven the festive atmosphere. Free, open to the public, and kid friendly.

in the **LABORATORY** series

Overtones and Undercurrents

SAT JAN 16, 2021

7:00pm How Music is Made | 8:00pm Concert | Post-concert Party
at Caroline Hume Concert Hall, SF Conservatory of Music, San Francisco

Our 50th season **in the LABORATORY** series explores the boundaries of sound generation in a program that breaks apart and re-combines the elements of amplified music, especially Rock. Electric guitars acting as percussion instruments and subwoofer cones as pulse generators bring us back to the appearance of Prog-Rocker **Frank Zappa** as guest conductor for SFCMP in the '80's. The concert vibrates with works by composers exploring the tension between the natural and the artificial including **two new works** by students of the SFCM Technology and Applied Composition Department. Sonic essays by celebrated Bay Area artist **Fred Frith** and San Francisco native **Mary Kouyoumdjian** draw us in and focus our ears while **Ashley Fure** and **Donnacha Dennehy** pull apart the components of speakers and the natural harmonic series in boundary-pushing compositions.

SFCMP MASTERCLASS series

THUR MAR 4, 2021, 7:30pm

at Sol Joseph Recital Hall, SF Conservatory of Music, San Francisco

In our ongoing Masterclass series and chamber concert, we interact with some of the most talented Bay Area pre-professional musicians in live performance with our renowned ensemble members. Students bring selected works to the stage while being mentored in the techniques, skills, and myriad styles of contemporary music performance. This season's masterclass and chamber concert focuses on contemporary repertoire for stringed instruments in solo and chamber settings, coached by violinist **Hrabba Atladottir**.

at the CROSSROADS series

PostScript to the Future

SAT APR 10, 2021

7:00pm How Music is Made | 8:00pm Concert | Post-concert Party

at ODC B. Way Theater, San Francisco

For the final concert of a landmark 50th season, our **at the CROSSROADS** series reflects an ongoing exploration of music that exists in the innovative realms of cross-genre connectivity. The Contemporary Players join their trans-Atlantic compatriots at Ensemble Intercontemporain by co-commissioning a new work from NYC-based composer and multi-instrumentalist **Tyshawn Sorey**, whose fluency across stylistic streams has distinguished him as one of the most compelling voices in contemporary music today. Connecting the threads to a figure that Sorey has long considered a key inspiration for his work, we spotlight the life and legacy of composer and longtime Bay Area resident **Olly Wilson**, a close friend and collaborator of the Contemporary Players for years. Jazz-trained cellist and composer **Tomeka Reid** joins the conversation, along with the premiere of our annual *SF Search for Scores* winning composition, framing an emerging generation of composers whose work launches out on divergent paths along the same cross-genre trajectories.

SFCMP EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS 2020-21

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.

2020-21 composers in residence:

October 2020 composer **Caroline Shaw**

January 2021 composer and guest artist **Fred Frith**

April 2021 composer **Tyshawn Sorey**

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 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 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/](https://www.sfcmp.org/press-kits/)
Biographies of SFCMP ensemble members can be accessed online at: [sfcmp.org/category/players](https://www.sfcmp.org/category/players).

ENSEMBLE ROSTER

FLUTE

Tod Brody

OBOE

Kyle Bruckman

Sarah Rathke

CLARINET

Jeff Anderle
Peter Josheff

TRUMPET

Adam Luftman

TROMBONE

Brendan Lai-Tong

TUBA

Peter Wahrhaftig

PERCUSSION

William Winant
Christopher Froh
Loren Mach
Haruka Fujii

HARP

Meredith Clark

PIANO

Kate Campbell

GUITAR

David Tanenbaum

VIOLIN

Roy Malan
Susan Freier
Hrabba Atladottir

VIOLA

Nanci Severance
Meena Bhasin

CELLO

Stephen Harrison
Hannah Addario-Berry

CONTRABASS

Richard Worn