

This week, the Contemporary Music Players launch their fully-virtual 50th Season. Highlights include newly-commissioned work by Tyshawn Sorey and Caroline Shaw to premiere this spring.

SAN FRANCISCO (March 2, 2021) – San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and Artistic Director Eric Dudley announce newly-updated information and the launch of their 50th anniversary season, running through July 2021. This milestone season, reenvisioned to account for the current public health concerns, retains nearly all of its previously-scheduled offerings, including the work of 21 composers with 10 from California, 2 large-scale commissioning projects, and 5 distinct world premieres. All events have been rescheduled to run from March through July 2021, with newly-added online content for an enhanced audience experience. All performances will be pre-taped in the safety of controlled studio spaces and venues in San Francisco and the East Bay area and all events will be available for streaming online at the scheduled air dates and times, and for on-demand viewing for 30 days following each webcast.

Artistic Director Eric Dudley: “I am thrilled to be presenting the work of three preeminent artists from our 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 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.”

Executive Director Lisa Oman: “The launch of our virtual season represents the exciting next step for the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players as we further broaden our local and global reach through the release of digital content designed specifically for virtual audiences. The online world offers the potential to engage with more people than ever before. As we look ahead to the future, virtual offerings will be an element of the Contemporary Music Players’ identity, complementing our live performance activity and opening new avenues for innovation and accessibility.”

Priced at \$150 for the entire season (March–July, 2021), Season subscriptions provide full access to the Contemporary Players digital content which is available for browser-based streaming. Access to individual events can also be purchased for \$20 per event and a sliding scale for students and teachers. Events range 45-75 minutes in duration and remain available for on-demand for 30 days after the initial webcast.

Season tickets are now through March 15 at SFCMP.org

2020-2021 Season Highlights Include:

The world premiere of a new work by **Tyshawn Sorey**, a SFCMP and Ensemble Intercontemporain co-commission and **cross-generational celebration of the music of OLLY WILSON in commemoration of his life and relationship with SFCMP**

- The full program features works by **Tyshawn Sorey**, **Olly Wilson**, **Tomoka Reid**, and the winner of SFCMP’s annual *SF Search for Scores*, **Josiah Tayaq Catalan**.

An all-electro-acoustic concert of works for solo instrument and electronics, featuring the world premieres of compositions by two composers in the Technology & Applied Composition program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music

- With SFCMP oboist **Kyle Bruckmann**, guitarist **David Tannenbaum**, and percussionist **William Winant** as featured performers, with a piece for percussionist performing on subwoofer cones by composer **Ash Fure**, and the world premieres of new works by **DeVanté Winn** and **Garrett Lucero**

A SFCMP commission and world premiere by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw

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

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

A celebratory 50th Anniversary virtual benefit event, pre-taped at the Verdi Club, with special presentations and intimate performances by the virtuoso musicians of SFCMP

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The 2020-2021 50th Anniversary Season

SFCMP MASTERCLASS series

**TUES MAR 2, 2021, 10:00am Pacific - Livestream; On-Demand starting MAR 4, 7:30pm through APR 4, 2021
Taped at SF Conservatory of Music, San Francisco**

In our ongoing Masterclass series, we interact with some of the most talented Bay Area pre-professional musicians in live performances with coaching by 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 focuses on contemporary repertoire for stringed instruments, coached by violinist **Hrabba Atladottir**.

in the LABORATORY series

Overtones and Undercurrents

SAT MAR 6, 2021

8:00pm Pacific Webcast | On-Demand starting MAR 6, 7:30pm through APR 6, 2021

Taped at Paul Drescher Ensemble Studio, Oakland, CA

Our 50th season *in the LABORATORY* series stretches the boundaries of sound generation in a program that explores the tensions between the natural and the artificial. Including interviews with the composers and performers that provide windows into their creative processes and behind-the-scenes insight, this fully electro-acoustic concert features the world premieres of two new works by **Garrett Lucero** and **DeVanté Winn**, both students of the SFCM Technology and Applied Composition Department. The brilliantly unconventional use of subwoofer cones as pulse generators defines the soundworld of an essay for solo percussion and electronics by **Ash Fure**, pulling apart the components of speakers for fascinating and unexpected musical results.

at the CROSSROADS series

PostScript to the Future, Parts 1 & 2

SAT APR 10, 2021 and SAT JUL 10, 2021

PROGRAM 1, APR 10 : 8:00pm Pacific Webcast | Watch On-Demand through MAY 10, 2021

PROGRAM 2, JUL 10 : 8:00pm Pacific Webcast | Watch On-Demand through AUG 10, 2021

Taped at Paul Drescher Ensemble Studio, Oakland, CA

This year's *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 **Oily 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 by **Josiah Catalan**, framing an emerging generation of composers whose work launches out on divergent paths along the same cross-genre trajectories.

in the COMMUNITY series

Sound Encounters in collaboration with CNMAT, UC Berkeley

SUN MAY 23, 2021

3:00pm Pacific Webcast | Watch On-Demand through JUN 23, 2021

Taped at Root Division, San Francisco

For this year's **in the COMMUNITY** series event, we invite everyone to experience sound art in a virtual setting, as we explore a fascinating range of electro-acoustic works of Bay Area origins. SFCMP percussionist William Winant kicks off the program with his uniquely personal interpretation of a famous work by **James Tenney**, followed by performances of pieces by three of the Bay Area's leading sound artists from the Center for New Music and Audio Technologies at U.C. Berkeley: **Jon Kulpa**, **Maija Hynninen**, and **Jon Yu**.

on STAGE series

Voices in Reverberation

FRI JUN 18, 2021

8:00pm Pacific Webcast | Watch On-Demand through JUL 18, 2021

Taped at Paul Drescher Ensemble Studio, Oakland, CA

In our **on STAGE series**, we shine a spotlight on West Coast composers to celebrate some of the brightest luminaries from the Bay Area. Resident rockstar **John Adams** demonstrates his technical prowess in the riveting, large-ensemble work *Son of Chamber Symphony*. We present a new work by **Caroline Shaw** commissioned exclusively by San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, written for instrumental quartet and celebrated Bay Area sound artist and vocalist **Pamela Z**. The inexpressible **Amadeus Regucera** thrills us with textual utterances and deep breaths and Los Angeles' **Andrew Norman** takes us on a sonic journey through the interior light of the Basilica of Saint Sabina.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

50th Anniversary Celebration and Concert

SAT JUN 26, 2021

8:00pm Pacific Webcast | Watch On-Demand through JUL 26, 2021

Taped at The Verdi Club, San Francisco

For five decades, the Contemporary Players' activities have helped to define and advance the new music scene in the city of San Francisco and beyond. We celebrate that legacy with 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. 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 you won't want to miss.

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:

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 San Francisco Contemporary Music Players

San Francisco Contemporary Music Players is the West Coast's most longstanding and largest new music ensemble, comprised of twenty-two highly skilled musicians. For 50 years, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players have created innovative and artistically excellent music and are one of the most active ensembles in the United States dedicated to contemporary music. Holding 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 1,300 works by over 600 composers 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. 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 works for large ensemble and California artists.

For more information, and hi-resolution images visit [SFCMP.org/press-kits/](https://sfcmp.org/press-kits/)

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