

PRESS RELEASE

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San Francisco Contemporary Music Players Present Premieres by Caroline Shaw and Tyshawn Sorey, with Concluding Concerts of 50th Anniversary Season to be Webcast in June and July

SAN FRANCISCO (June 3, 2021) – San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and Artistic Director Eric Dudley announce three upcoming online events, including the world premieres of newly-commissioned works by acclaimed composers Caroline Shaw and Tyshawn Sorey, both Creative Advisors to SFCMP.

For the first program, with webcast starting at 8 pm on Friday June 18 and available on-demand for 30 days following, Caroline Shaw brings her own insights as a vocalist to a new work for mixed quartet and solo voice, entitled *Pine Tree* and based on a text by San Francisco poet Yone Noguchi (1875-1947). Born in Japan and returning there for the latter part of his life, Noguchi spent a number of his early creative years in San Francisco and was the first Japanese-born writer to publish poetry in English. His poem *I Hear you Call, Pine Tree* becomes the basis for Shaw's piece, which also features SFCMP Creative Advisor and guest artist Pamela Z on vocals. The rest of the program includes other works of vocal or vocally-inspired music, with Pamela Z performing her own composition *Breathing* from *Carbon Song Cycle*, Andrew Norman's beautifully lyrical work *Sabina* for solo violin, and John Adams's *Son of Chamber Symphony*, with its raucous opening movement built upon rhythmic echoes of the scherzo from Beethoven's 9th, 'Choral' symphony. Also on the program is a work for instrumental trio, *Inexpressible v.2* by Amadeus Julian Regucera.

The second event is a Benefit Concert in celebration of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players' 50th year, webcast starting at 8 pm on Saturday June 26 and also available on-demand for 30 days afterward. For this special event, taped at the Verdi Club in downtown SF, several players from SFCMP's roster of contemporary music virtuosi will share solo works that count as personal favorites and 'party pieces,' along with personal messages about their work with the Contemporary Players over its history in the Bay Area new music scene. The concert includes works by celebrated composers David Lang, Aaron Jay Kernis, Liza Lim, Christian Lindberg, Guillaume Connesson, and newly-arrived SF Symphony Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen.

The third event, a continuation of the *at the CROSSROADS* series program presented on March 6-April 6, goes live at 8 pm on July 10 and continues online through August 10. With influential Bay Area composer Olly Wilson as its focus, the concert includes Wilson's SFCMP-commissioned work *A City Called Heaven* for septet, in addition to the world premiere of *For Olly Woodrow Wilson, Jr. (In Memoriam)* by Tyshawn Sorey, a new work for chamber orchestra co-commissioned by SFCMP and the Paris-based Ensemble Intercontemporain. Also on the program is a lively work for string quartet, *Prospective Dwellers* by cellist and composer Tomeka Reid.

Says Artistic Director Eric Dudley, "the Contemporary Players are absolutely thrilled to be gathering together as an ensemble again, to present the premieres of these two stunning new compositions along with works by so many other amazing composers for the conclusion of our celebratory 50th Season Online." Executive Director, Lisa Oman adds, "Our 50th season finale concludes our unprecedented pandemic season in which we produced our work for an online audience—a new medium for us—and carefully curated each online experience to showcase the adventurous, determined, and creative individuals that make up our longstanding organization." More details and event information, along with instructions on purchasing tickets, can be found on SFCMP's website at www.sfcmp.org.

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UPCOMING EVENT INFORMATION

on STAGE series

Voices in Reverberation

FRIDAY JUNE 18, 2021

8:00 pm PT Webcast, available on-demand through July 18, 2021

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 Year Celebration and Benefit Concert

SATURDAY JUNE 26, 2021

8:00 pm PT Webcast, available on-demand through July 26, 2021

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.

at the CROSSROADS series

PostScript to the Future

SATURDAY JULY 10, 2021

8:00 pm PT Webcast, available on-demand through August 10, 2021

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 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.

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.