

PRESS RELEASE

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San Francisco Contemporary Music Players Announces Its 51st Season

SAN FRANCISCO (October 11, 2021) – San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and Artistic Director Eric Dudley enthusiastically announce their 51st concert season, running from September 2021 through May 2022. After a celebratory 50th season of fully online presentations, this season marks a return to live performances that will be offered both in-person (public health guidelines permitting) and online as on-demand webcasts through SFCMP’s website. The season includes the work of twenty-six composers with thirteen from California, four commissioning projects, eight distinct world, U.S. or West Coast premieres, and a spotlight on large ensemble works.

Of the 51st season, Artistic Director Eric Dudley says “we are extremely excited to be returning to the concert stage, while continuing to make our performances available online to widen our reach and provide a variety of options for our audience. The music of our 51st season is refreshing, breathtaking, and deeply engaging, and we can’t wait to share our performances with live audiences again, as well as with those who’ll join us online!” The season features a celebration of composers **Steve Reich** at 85 and **Sofia Gubaidulina** at 90, and includes the delayed premieres of pieces by *SF Search for Scores* winner **Taylor Joshua Rankin** and Australian composer **David Chisholm**, both postponed from 2020, plus the world premiere of a new quartet with electronics and an improvised solo part by Creative Advisor and member of the SFJazz Collective **Edward Simon**. Also of particular note are a world premiere piece by Bay Area composer and educator **Edmund Campion**, and a commissioned work of ‘instrumental theater,’ with poetic inspiration and written expressly for the musicians of SFCMP, by composer and Artistic Production Director **Amadeus Regucera**.

2021-2022 Season Highlights:

An electro-acoustic concert featuring the work of Bay Area luminaries FRED FRITH and ZEENA PARKINS

- With an audio-visual piece for film and ensemble by **ALEXANDER SCHUBERT**, and the world premieres of works by students in the Technology and Applied Composition Program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music

A free community music event featuring the continued collaboration between SFCMP and the Center for New Music and Audio Technologies at U.C. Berkeley

- Presenting the work of four CNMAT-affiliated composers and the world premiere of a new piece for percussion and electronics by **EDMUND CAMPION**, performed by SFCMP percussionist **CHRIS FROH**

A special focus on the music of American maverick Steve Reich in the season of his 85th birthday

A cross-generational celebration of the music of SOFIA GUBAIDULINA in honor of her 90th birth year

- Including the world premieres of SFCMP commissions by **AMADEUS REGUCERA** and **DAVID CHISHOLM**, alongside works by **DU YUN**, **TAYLOR JOSHUA RANKIN**, and the winner of SFCMP’s annual *SF Search for Scores*

The world premiere of a newly-commissioned piece for SFCMP by renowned jazz artist, composer, and Creative Advisor EDWARD SIMON, also appearing as guest artist and soloist

- On a concert in the Joe Henderson Lab at **SFJazz**, including works by **STEVE REICH** and **ORLANDO GARCÍA**

The 2021-2022 51st Season

SAT, NOV 6, 2021

in the LABORATORY series

Reactivity and Response

7PM Pacific - Pre-concert program, *How Music is Made* with Fred Frith

8PM Pacific - Concert

at Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall, SF Conservatory of Music

Tickets Members: Free / Non-Members: \$15 Live, \$5 Digital access

The first of two *in the LABORATORY* series concerts on this season presents an array of works with electronic or visual components as the backbone of their compositional concepts. Multi-instrumentalist, improviser and composer **Zeena Parkins** starts the conversation with a work for solo cello, sound diffusion and fixed media, while student composers from SFCM's Technology and Applied Composition program continue with new sonic avenues for solo instruments and electronic resources. Celebrated Bay Area artist **Fred Frith** joins the stage in a performance of his work with SFCMP virtuoso **William Winant**. And enfant-terrible **Alexander Schubert** entralls with a visually-based reactive composition for flexible ensemble, juxtaposed with the Minimalist strands of an early work by **Steve Reich** at his most contrapuntal.

THURS, NOV 18, 2021

SFCMP MASTERCLASS series

Masterclass featuring contemporary brass repertoire, in collaboration with SFCM brass department

7:30PM Pacific

Led by Brendan Lai-Tong, trombone

at Sol Joseph Recital Hall, SF Conservatory of Music

Tickets Free. Open to the public. Live event only. Limited seating.

Through SFCMP's ongoing MASTERCLASS series and chamber concert, our patrons have the chance to observe some of the most talented Bay Area pre-professional musicians in live interaction, performance and coaching with our renowned ensemble members. Students perform selected works while being mentored in the techniques, skills, and myriad styles of contemporary music. This season's masterclass will focus on contemporary music repertoire for brass instruments, coached by SFCMP trombonist **Brendan Lai-Tong** and hosted and facilitated by Artistic Director Eric Dudley.

SUN, DEC 19, 2021

in the COMMUNITY series

Sound Encounters II

in collaboration with CNMAT, UC Berkeley

at 3PM Pacific

at Root Division Gallery, San Francisco

Tickets Members: Free / Non-Members: \$15 Live, \$5 Digital access

As part of this season's *in the COMMUNITY* offerings, we renew our partnership with several area sound artists for the presentation of works hailing from UC Berkeley's Center for New Music and Audio Technologies. This year's line-up includes the world premiere of a new work for percussion and electronics by CNMAT director **Edmund Champion**, setting the stage for four acousmatic, electro-acoustic and multimedia compositions by CNMAT artists **Hallie Smith**, **Jon Yu**, **Andrew Harlan** and **Didem Coskunseven**. And in continued celebration of the 85th birthday season of an American pioneer in electronic media, **Steve Reich's** *Vermont Counterpoint* for percussion and tape rounds out the set with a display of instrumental fireworks, featuring the solo artistry of SFCMP percussionist **Chris Froh**.

THURS, FEB 17, 2022

in the COMMUNITY series

Sound & Wine Online

Drop in online anytime between 5:30PM - 6PM Pacific.

Tickets: Digital Access. Pay What You Can. *All proceeds go directly to support our Bay Area Musicians.*

Join us for a San Francisco-inspired musical break in the day. You'll hear the Players' personal party favorites and unique interpretations of music that inspires them as artists. We invite you to bring your favorite beverage, turn on your chat, invite your friends and join us online for a spirited start to the weekend with performances by Haruka Fujii, percussion and Sarah Rathke, oboe.

This event is pre-recorded and live chat will be on!

SAT-SUN, APR 2-3, 2022

at the CROSSROADS series

Drama and Poetry

Sat, Apr 2 at 7PM Pacific How Music is Made | 8PM Concert

Sun, Apr 3 at 2PM Pacific How Music is Made | 3PM Concert

at ODC Dance Commons, San Francisco

Tickets Members: Free / Non-Members: \$15 Live, \$5 Digital access

At the high-water mark of our 51st season, we take a collective look in the mirror with a set of generational responses from across the globe to the poetry and drama of existence. Celebrating her 90th birthday, Eastern European master **Sofia Gubaidulina**'s music is hailed for its unflagging dramatic and emotional intensity. Two of her works anchor the first concert in an exploration of the existential, while the winning composer of our annual *SF Search for Scores* responds to the theme. The searing intensity of **Amadeus Regucera**'s musical language comes to life in a newly-commissioned work of instrumental theater, calling upon the poetry of Filipino writer José Garcia Villa as inspiration. On our second program, Chinese-American composer **Du Yun**'s latest essay for string quartet leads off with her typical hyper-dramatic flair, and Australian composer **David Chisholm** explores the murky implications behind the idea of the projected self in the internet age. One more work of **Gubaidulina**'s rounds out the celebratory focus on her achievement, in a deeply moving expression of her profound sense of the spiritual and the eternal.

EDUCATION series with SFJAZZ

Workshop on Improvisatory and Free Compositional Techniques

Spring 2022 pending

SUN, MAY 22, 2022

in the LABORATORY series

Synergy and Synthesis

Concert 1: 2:30PM Pacific Concert

Concert 2: 4:00PM Pacific Concert

at Joe Henderson Lab, SFJAZZ, San Francisco

Live event limited seating. No door sales.

Tickets Members: Free / Non-Members: \$15 Live, \$5 Digital access

Our last offering for the season, sounding off the *in the LABORATORY* series name, takes place in the Joe Henderson Lab at SFJazz. Creative Advisor and SFJazz Collective member **Edward Simon** leads us in an exploration of works that combine live acoustic elements with different approaches to the incorporation of electronics, creating novel juxtapositions in time with his own solo piano playing and a newly-commissioned work for mixed quartet. A quintessential phasing piece by **Steve Reich** provides one more reflection on the influential composer's work during his 85th birthday season, while a meditation for English horn and electronics by **Orlando Jacinto García** offers a subtle blurring of the boundaries between the natural and the synthetic.

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.

2021-22 composers in residence:

SAT, NOV 6, 2021 | Fred Frith | 7:00 PM

SAT, APR 2, 2022 | Amadeus Regucera | 7:00 PM

SUN, APR 3, 2022 | David Chisholm | 2:00 PM

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 is currently on the faculty of The University of the Pacific's Conservatory of Music, where he teaches voice, composition, and coaches and conducts the Pacific Opera Theatre productions and the student-run new music ensemble 28/78.

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/](#)
Biographies of SFCMP ensemble members can be accessed online at: [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