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May 28, 2009

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### **David Milnes to Step Down as San Francisco Contemporary Music Players' Music Director**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA -

David Milnes, who was appointed Music Director of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players in 2002, will end his tenure in that role, by mutual agreement with the ensemble, on July 1, 2009. According to Susan Hartzell, board president, "David has brought our group to a new level of ambition and performance, and we wish him well in his future endeavors."

During his term as Music Director, Milnes recruited seven outstanding musicians to the group, just over one third of the ensemble's current membership. Under his artistic leadership, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players presented 24 world premiere performances, including 17 pieces that were commissioned by the ensemble from such eminent composers as Edmund Campion, Philippe Leroux, Jorge Liderman, and Liza Lim.

Milnes also led the ensemble in the first U.S. performances of 31 works by composers from 14 countries around the world. Milnes focused his programming on pieces written within the last ten years, but on occasion he also conducted memorable performances of a few influential older works, including Pierre Boulez's *Le marteau sans maître*, John Cage's *Third Construction*, Gérard Grisey's *Vortex Temporum*, and Iannis Xenakis's *Medea Senecae*, the latter in collaboration with the celebrated men's chorus, Chanticleer. Milnes has led the ensemble in making four recordings, including, most recently, a CD of music by Edmund Campion.

The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players is inviting guest conductors to lead the five concerts in its 2009-10 season.

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