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Adam Frey, Executive Director, to step down at end of 2008-09 season

Adam Frey, Executive Director of the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players since 1991, has announced that he will resign his post following the end of the current 2008-09 season in order to pursue fresh challenges. Frey, who majored in music at Harvard University and received his M.B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, has guided the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players through a period of significant growth and achievement. During these years, under the artistic leadership first of Stephen L. Mosko, then Donald Palma, Jean-Louis LeRoux, and finally David Milnes, the ensemble has presented an annual season of concerts and won nine national ASCAP-Chamber Music America Awards for Adventurous Programming.

Board President Susan Hartzell commented: "The board is extremely sorry to see Adam go, although we understand his desire to explore new possibilities. Fortunately, Adam leaves us at a time when our financial reserves are at a high water mark. The ensemble's increasingly ambitious artistic achievements would not have been possible without his attentive and skillful management."

"To serve this ensemble," Frey said, "has been a great privilege. I have been more than fortunate to work with illustrious composers, with our extremely talented musicians, and with a dedicated and generous Board. It has also been rewarding to get to know the bright, creative people who make up our audience."

In Frey's 18-year tenure, during which the group's budget has almost tripled, the ensemble has performed well over a hundred concerts, commissioning 43 new works and presenting 44 U.S. premieres and 75 world premieres. The ensemble has also released twelve CDs and maintained an ongoing residency in two San Francisco public high schools: School of the Arts and Lowell High, performing in each school twice per year.

Asked to recall some highlights of his tenure, Frey said, "There have been extraordinary people and extraordinary pieces. It was a thrill to meet John Cage and Elliott Carter and to work with such musicians as Dawn Upshaw and Phyllis Bryn-Julson, violinist David Abel, and pianist Raquel Boldorini. Our collaboration with the impressive Chorissima ensemble of the San Francisco Girls Chorus was also memorable. Some pieces that stand out for me include Stockhausen's *Mantra*, Nancarrow's *Studies*, *Linea* by Berio, and Grisey's *Vortex Temporum*, conducted by David Milnes with Julie Steinberg as piano soloist. Another high point was Jean-Louis LeRoux conducting the chamber version of Schoenberg's *Five Pieces for Orchestra*. Yet I think we are doing some of the most ambitious work in our history right now, this season, and with what we have planned for the 2009-10 season."

The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players' Board of Directors will be announcing a national search for an Executive Director to follow Adam Frey in the coming weeks.