

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players Presents

Struck, plucked, scraped & shaken

Music of Ligeti, Vassilandonakis, Bedrossian, and Ishii

SAN FRANCISCO, CA –

Monday, October 6, 2008 – San Francisco Contemporary Music Players

David Milnes, Music Director

The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players opens its 2008-09 season with a percussion focused concert, ***Struck, plucked, scraped & shaken***, at **8:00 pm on October 6, 2008** at the **Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum** in San Francisco. David Milnes and the ensemble perform works by György Ligeti, Yiorgos Vassilandonakis, Franck Bedrossian, and Maki Ishii.

David Milnes conducts György Ligeti's *Síppal, dobbal, nádihegedűvel* (With pipes, drums, fiddles), a playful and adventurous late-career work for mezzo-soprano and four percussion. In this piece, Ligeti uses an eclectic assortment of percussion instruments (ranging from marimbas to harmonicas to police whistles) to create a wholly unusual sound experience. Percussionists Christopher Froh, Daniel Kennedy, Benjamin Paysen and William Winant will be joined by New York-based mezzo-soprano Mary Nessinger. Nessinger, who specializes in new music, has performed throughout the U.S. and Europe.

In *Cochleas*, a theatrical new work by Bay Area composer Yiorgos Vassilandonakis, soloist Christopher Froh plays familiar percussion instruments in unfamiliar ways. As the piece begins, instruments are muffled under large pieces of cloth, which are gradually removed. Vassilandonakis envisions this piece as "a study in the timbral possibilities of metal percussion, on one hand, and in the ways in which a sonic particle can exponentially grow within a given space to the point of consuming it, on the other."

In Franck Bedrossian's *Digital* (U.S. premiere), percussionist Daniel Kennedy and bassist Richard Worn are pitted against an electronic track in a bold reimagining of the rhythm section. Bedrossian joins the Music Department faculty at U.C. Berkeley in the fall of 2008.

Two pieces by the late Japanese composer Maki Ishii round out the program: a percussion duo, *Fourteen Percussions* (referring to the number of instruments played); and a harp solo, *Image in the Forest*, played by Karen Gottlieb. Ishii's music is rooted in the unusual combination of European serialism and Japanese traditional music, and his self-proclaimed endeavor was to "stride two musical worlds."

Vassilandonakis and Bedrossian will participate in a pre-concert talk at 7:15pm, moderated by Music Director David Milnes.

8:00 pm (pre-concert talk at 7:15 pm)

\$28 General, \$23 Seniors, \$10 Students

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, 701 Mission St. at 3rd St., San Francisco
 Tickets: (415) 978-ARTS (2787) or www.ybca.org
 Info: www.sfcmp.org

Brief Listing:

Monday, October 6, 2008
 S.F. Contemporary Music Players, *Struck, plucked, scraped & shaken*, music of Ligeti, Vassilandonakis, Bedrossian, and Ishii. David Milnes, conductor.
 8 pm, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, 701 Mission St. at 3rd St., San Francisco
 Pre-concert talk at 7:15 pm.

Full Listing:

WHO:	San Francisco Contemporary Music Players – David Milnes, Music Director.
WHEN:	Monday, October 6, 2008, 8:00 pm (pre-concert talk at 7:15 pm)
WHERE:	Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, 701 Mission St. at 3 rd St., San Francisco
PROGRAM:	<p>György Ligeti, <i>Síppal, dobbal, nádihegedűvel</i> (With pipes, drums, and fiddles) (2000) Mary Nessinger, mezzo soprano</p> <p>Yiorgos Vassilandonakis, <i>Cochleas</i> (2005) world premiere Christopher Froh, percussion</p> <p>Franck Bedrossian, <i>Digital</i> (2003) U.S. premiere Daniel Kennedy, percussion Richard Worn, contrabass</p> <p>Maki Ishii, <i>Fourteen Percussions</i> (2000) Maki Ishii, <i>Image in the Forest</i> (2001) Karen Gottlieb, harp</p>
TICKETS:	\$28 general, \$23 seniors, \$10 students (415) 978-ARTS (2787)
INFO:	www.sfcmp.org

This performance is made possible in part by grants from the Wells Fargo Foundation, and the Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation.

The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players is supported in part by:

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