

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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High-resolution photos and press releases: www.sfcmp.org/press

**San Francisco Contemporary Music Players
Announces 2009-10 Season**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA -

The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players announces its 2009-2010 season, with five concerts of new chamber music programmed by Music Director David Milnes and performed at the Herbst Theatre and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, plus four *Contemporary Insights: Music and Conversation* preview events at ODC Dance Commons.

Highlights of the season include: four world or U.S. premieres; new and recent works written especially for the ensemble by John Harbison, Ken Ueno, Donnacha Dennehy, Philippe Leroux and Manolis Manousakis; a concert and lecture devoted to Luigi Nono's masterpiece for violin and electronics; recent music from Switzerland, Germany and France; and Tan Dun's *Water Music*, in which four percussionists use water to manipulate sound.

The two fall concerts include works that the ensemble will perform at the MANCA festival in Nice, France on November 15, 2009.

From the Top

Monday, October 5, 2009

Herbst Theatre. 8:00pm. Pre-concert talk at 7:15pm.

Music by: Edmund Campion, Morton Feldman, John Harbison, Steve Reich, Charles Wuorinen

The ensemble starts the season with a concert of established composers who have reached the top of their field, including three winners of the Pulitzer Prize for music. David Milnes conducts John Harbison's new work, *The Seven Ages*, which sets the sensual poetry of Louise Glück (also a Pulitzer Prize winner) to music for mezzo-soprano (Pamela Dellal), flute, clarinet, vibraphone, piano, violin, and cello. Tod Brody will perform Steve Reich's *Vermont Counterpoint* for flute and pre-recorded sound.

On the preceding Sunday (October 4, 2009), there will be a performance and discussion of John Harbison's *The Seven Ages* at 4:30pm at ODC Dance Commons, as part of the series *Contemporary Insights: Music and Conversation*.

Made to Order: commissions and collaborations

Monday, November 2, 2009

Herbst Theatre. 8:00pm. Pre-concert talk at 7:15pm.

Music by: Donnacha Dennehy, Philippe Leroux, Ronald Bruce Smith, Ken Ueno.

David Milnes conducts three works commissioned by the ensemble, including two new pieces by Irish composer Donnacha Dennehy (b.1970) and by U.C. Berkeley's newest composition professor Ken Ueno (b.1970). Ueno, who is also a vocalist specializing in extended techniques, will perform the vocal part for his new work. Smith's work for guitar and electronics was written with the technique and abilities of David Tanenbaum in mind.

On the preceding Sunday (November 1, 2009), there will be a performance and discussion of the new work by Ken Ueno at 4:30pm at ODC Dance Commons as part of the series *Contemporary Insights: Music and Conversation*.

Natural Phenomena

Monday, January 25, 2010

Herbst Theatre. 8:00pm. Pre-concert talk at 7:15pm.

Music by: Oscar Bianchi, Brian Ferneyhough, Michael Jarrell, Helmut Lachenmann, Matthias Pintscher

The pieces on this program recall the mysterious ingenuity of nature. Viola is featured with the ensemble in Michael Jarrell's *...more leaves...*, and Christopher Froh brings a dancer's grace to Matthias Pintscher's fifteen minute percussion solo, *nemeton*, named for the sacred groves where Druids met in ancient times.

On the preceding Sunday (January 24, 2010), there will be a *Contemporary Insights* performance and discussion of Michael Jarrell's *...more leaves...* at 4:30pm at ODC Dance Commons.

Longing for Utopia: Graeme Jennings plays Nono

Monday, March 1, 2010

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum. 8:00pm. Pre-concert talk at 7:15pm.

Luigi Nono, *La lontananza nostalgica utopica futura*

In this hour-long piece for soloist and electronics, violinist Graeme Jennings forges an unpredictable path through the audience, like a pilgrim on a spiritual quest. Nono's piece requires the highest level of collaboration from the sound engineer, who must mix eight independently recorded parts in real-time, responding in the moment to the violinist's live performance. A groundbreaking work by one of the most influential composers of the late 20th century, the piece will be paired with an introductory talk and post-concert discussion led by the performers and other experts on Nono's work.

His Own Space of Freedom

Monday, April 26, 2010

Herbst Theatre. 8:00pm. Pre-concert talk at 7:15pm.

Music by: Philippe Hurel, Manolis Manousakis, Tan Dun, Guo Wenjing

The four kinetic works on this concert address different aspects of freedom and its limits. Manolis Manousakis honors civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. in a piece for bassoon (Rufus Olivier), electronics and video. Academy Award-winner Tan Dun uses water to create unique sounds in a piece for four percussionists, commissioned by the Nature Conservancy. Guo Wenjing's work for three percussionists takes a surprisingly simple setup – just six gongs placed on a small table – and lets loose an exuberant *Parade* of sound.

On the preceding Sunday (April 25, 2010), there will be a *Contemporary Insights* performance and discussion of Philippe Hurel's *Figures libres* at 4:30pm at ODC Dance Commons.

Tickets:

2009-2010 Ticket Prices:

Season Subscriptions*: \$128 general, \$106 senior, \$45 student

Single Tickets:

Concerts: \$28 general, \$23 senior, \$10 student

Contemporary Insights: \$10 general, \$5 student

**Subscription ticket prices include all five subscription series concerts and all four Contemporary Insights events.*

Subscriptions now available for purchase at: www.sfcmp.org

Single tickets available soon through: www.cityboxoffice.com, www.ybca.org, and www.sfcmp.org.

Information: 415-278-9566, info@sfcmp.org, www.sfcmp.org

Venues:

Herbst Theatre 401 Van Ness Avenue at McAllister, San Francisco

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum 701 Mission Street at Third Street, San Francisco

ODC Dance Commons 351 Shotwell Street, San Francisco

**San Francisco Contemporary Music Players
2009-2010 Subscription Series Concerts**

Monday, October 5, 2009 – *From the Top*

Herbst Theatre. 8:00pm, pre-concert talk at 7:15pm.

Edmund Campion, *600 Secondes dans le vieux modèle* (2008, U.S. premiere)

Charles Wuorinen, *Trombone Trio* (1985)

Morton Feldman, *The Viola in My Life (1)* (1972)

Steve Reich, *Vermont Counterpoint* (1982)

Tod Brody, flute

John Harbison, *The Seven Ages* (2008, co-commission)

Pamela Dellal, mezzo-soprano

Monday, November 2, 2009 – *Made to Order: commissions and collaborations*

Herbst Theatre. 8:00pm, pre-concert talk at 7:15pm.

Ken Ueno, *new work* (2009, commission, world premiere)

Ken Ueno, voice

Ronald Bruce Smith, *Five Pieces for Guitar and Electronics* (2007)

David Tanenbaum, guitar

Donnacha Dennehy, *new work* (2009, commission, world premiere)

Philippe Leroux, *De la texture* (2007, commission)

Monday, January 25, 2010 – *Natural Phenomena*

Herbst Theatre. 8:00pm, pre-concert talk at 7:15pm.

Michael Jarrell, *...more leaves...* (2000)

Oscar Bianchi, *Zaffiro* (2005)

Matthias Pintscher, *nemeton* (2007)

Christopher Froh, percussion

Helmut Lachenmann, *Trio fluido* (1966)

Brian Ferneyhough, *Flurries* (1998)

Monday, March 1, 2010 – *Longing for Utopia: Graeme Jennings plays Nono*

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum. 8:00pm, pre-concert talk at 7:15pm.

Luigi Nono, *La lontananza nostalgica utopica futura* (1988)

Graeme Jennings, violin

Guest lecturer: To be announced

Monday, April 26, 2010 – *His Own Space of Freedom*

Herbst Theatre. 8:00pm, pre-concert talk at 7:15pm.

Philippe Hurel, *Figures libres* (2004)

Guo Wenjing, *Parade* (2003)

Manolis Manousakis, *One Minute of Silence* (2008, world premiere)

Rufus Olivier, bassoon

Tan Dun, *Water Music* (2004)

San Francisco Contemporary Music Players
Contemporary Insights: Music and Conversation events

All events begin at 4:30pm and will be held at the ODC Dance Commons at 351 Shotwell Street in San Francisco's Mission District.

A companion to the subscription season, the *Contemporary Insights: Music and Conversation* series includes four intimate preview events devoted to the understanding and appreciation of new music. On each occasion, the ensemble presents one piece from the upcoming subscription series concert program, together with an open dialogue between composer, musicians and audience about the music.

Sunday, October 4, 2009 – John Harbison's *The Seven Ages*

4:30pm – *ODC Dance Commons*

Instrumentation: mezzo-soprano (Pamela Dellal), flute, clarinet, vibraphone, piano, violin, and cello

The composer will participate in this event.

Sunday, November 1, 2009 – A new work by Ken Ueno

4:30pm – *ODC Dance Commons*

Instrumentation: voice (Ken Ueno), flute, percussion, piano, viola, cello

The composer will participate in this event.

Sunday, January 24, 2010 – Michael Jarrell's *...more leaves...*

4:30pm – *ODC Dance Commons*

Instrumentation: viola with clarinet, trumpet, trombone, piano, and contrabass

Sunday, April 25, 2010 – Philippe Hurel's *Figures libres*

4:30pm – *ODC Dance Commons*

Instrumentation: flute, oboe, clarinet, percussion, piano, violin, viola, cello

The composer will participate in this event.

This season's concerts are funded in part by: San Francisco Hotel Tax/Grants for the Arts Program; National Endowment for the Arts; American Composers Forum, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter; BMI Foundation; Aaron Copland Fund for Music; Alice M. Ditson Fund at Columbia University; The French-American Fund for Contemporary Music, a program of FACE with support from Cultural Services of the French Embassy, CulturesFrance, SACEM and the Florence Gould Foundation; Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation; William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; Istituto Italiano di Cultura; Bernard Osher Foundation; Pro Helvetia, the Swiss Arts Council; Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco; San Francisco Foundation; Wells Fargo Foundation; and many individual donors.

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