AILYN PERÉZ REPLACES SUSANNA PHILLIPS
IN NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA’S SEASON OPENING PERFORMANCES
SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2015

San Francisco, CA - July 28, 2015 – Soprano Ailyn Peréz will step in for Susanna Phillips who has had to withdraw from New Century Chamber Orchestra’s 2015-2016 season opening performances September 17-20. Ms. Peréz graciously agreed to travel to San Francisco between her performances in the role of Mimi in La Bohème at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan, and the world premiere of Jake Heggie and Terrance McNally’s Great Scott at the Dallas Opera. The program showcases masterworks by Russian composers and will feature Ms. Peréz as soloist for Tchaikovsky’s “Letter Scene” from Eugene Onegin and Rachmaninoff’s Vocalise.

Highly sought after by the world’s leading opera houses, Ailyn Peréz has been hailed as a “major soprano” (The New York Times) and an artist “who truly seems to have it all” (Opera News). As the first Hispanic winner in the 35-year history of the prestigious Richard Tucker Award, Ms. Perez went on to win the 15th annual Placido Domingo Award in the same year. A firm favorite in the Bay Area, Ms. Perez is a graduate of both the San Francisco Opera’s Merola program (2005) and Adler Fellowship. In her 2014 role as Violetta in the San Francisco Opera production of La Traviata, Joshua Kosman of the San Francisco Chronicle said “Her singing was full-bodied and rich in color, with long-breathed phrases sumptuously sustained and an emotional depth to everything she undertook” and praised her as “the evening’s brightest luminary.” Ms. Perez recently made her Metropolitan Opera debut in February 2015 in a highly successful performance as Micaëla in Bizet’s Carmen and looks forward to upcoming appearances with Teatro alla Scala, Dallas Opera, Houston Grand Opera before returning again to the Metropolitan Opera.

New Century Chamber Orchestra and Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg recently announced the 2015-2016 season including four subscription weeks in venues across the Bay Area. The ensemble’s 24th season, Nadja’s eighth as music director, includes a World Premiere commission by Pulitzer prize-winning Featured Composer Jennifer Higdon, British violinist Daniel Hope as Guest Concertmaster leading a program of works in tribute to his mentor Yehudi Menuhin, a debut solo appearance by internationally acclaimed klezmer clarinetist David Krakauer and a repeat collaboration with the San Francisco Girls Chorus. The season repertoire encompasses a broad range of masterworks from the string ensemble repertoire including a program of works by Russian masters Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff and Shostakovich, an entire program of dance works by Strauss, Stravinsky and Khachaturian, contemporary works by Pärt, Takemitsu, Glass and Bechara El-Koury in addition to Christmas and Hanukah holiday favorites.

NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA 2015-2016 SEASON CALENDAR

Letters from Russia
September 17-20, 2015
Open Rehearsal: Wednesday, September 16, 10 a.m., Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

Thursday, September 17, 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Friday, September 18, 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto
Saturday, September 19, 8 p.m., San Francisco Conservatory of Music
Sunday, September 20, 5p.m, Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

Tchaikovsky: “Letter Scene” from Eugene Onegin
Shostakovich: Elegy and Polka
Rachmaninoff: Vocalise
Pärt: Trisagion
Jennifer Higdon: Strings from Concerto for Orchestra
Jennifer Higdon: String Lake from All Things Majestic
Jennifer Higdon: To the Point

Holiday Lights
December 17-20, 2015

Open Rehearsal: Wednesday, December 16, 10am, Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

Thursday, December 17, 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Friday, December 18, 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto
Saturday, December 19, 8 p.m., Herbst Theatre, San Francisco
Sunday, December 20, 5 p.m., Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

Program to include Bach’s Sheep May Safely Graze and Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring in addition to a variety of Christmas and Hanukah holiday favorites, to be announced at a later date.

Hope for Menuhin
February 4-7, 2016

Open Rehearsal: Wednesday, February 3, 10 a.m., Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

Thursday, February 4, 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Friday, February 5, 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto
Saturday, February 6, 8 p.m., Herbst Theatre, San Francisco
Sunday, February 7, 5 p.m., Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

J. S. Bach: Concerto in D Minor for 2 Violins, Strings and Basso Continuo, BWV 1043
Pärt: “Darf ich…” Solo violin, Tubular Bells and Strings
Philip Glass: “Echorus” for 2 Violins and Strings
Mendelssohn: Concerto in D minor for Violin and Strings
Vivaldi: Concerto in A minor for 2 Violins, RV 522
El-Khoury: Unfinished Journey – in memorium Yehudi Menuhin
Takemitsu: Nostalgia for Solo Violin and Strings
Bartók: Six Romanian Folk Dances

Delight in Dancing
May 5-8, 2016

Open Rehearsal: May 4, 10 a.m., Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

Thursday, May 5, 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, Berkeley
Friday, May 6, 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto
Saturday, May 7, 8 p.m., Herbst Theatre, San Francisco
Sunday, May 8, 5 p.m., Osher Marin JCC, San Rafael

Stravinsky: *Apollon musagète*
Jennifer Higdon: World Premiere Commission
Strauss: *Dance of the Seven Veils* from *Salome*
Khachaturian: *Sabre Dance*

ABOUT NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
The New Century Chamber Orchestra, one of only a handful of conductorless ensembles in the world, was founded in 1992 by cellist Miriam Perkoff and violist Wieslaw Pogorzelski. The 19-member string ensemble, including San Francisco Bay Area musicians and those who travel from across the U.S. and Europe to perform together, makes musical decisions collaboratively. World-renowned violin soloist, chamber musician and recording artist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg leads from the concertmaster chair. She joined the ensemble as music director and concertmaster in January 2008, bringing to New Century “a new sense of vitality and determination, as well as an audacious swagger that is an unmistakable fingerprint of its leader,” according to *Gramophone* magazine. This season marks her seventh with the orchestra and continues an illustrious line of concertmasters including Stuart Canin (1992-1999) and Krista Bennion Feeney (1999-2006).

In addition to performing classic pieces of chamber orchestra repertoire and commissioning new work, New Century breathes new life into rarely heard jewels of the past and performs world premieres. Salerno-Sonnenberg and New Century have made three successful national tours together. The 2011 performances in the Midwest, East Coast, and Southern California garnered record-breaking audiences and national critical acclaim. In January and February 2013, New Century followed with a highly successful eight-state national tour, the largest and most ambitious artistic undertaking in the organization’s history. In addition to touring efforts, New Century’s national footprint has also continued to grow with a rapidly increasing national radio presence.

The orchestra has released seven compact discs, the most recent its *From A to Z: 21st Century Concertos*. The orchestra’s first concert DVD, *On Our Way: Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the New Century Chamber Orchestra*, released in May 2012, weaves together documentary footage and concert footage from a February 2011 performance at the Broad Stage in Santa Monica.

For more information on New Century, please visit [http://www.ncco.org](http://www.ncco.org).

PHOTO CREDITS
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