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SAN FRANCISCO CHORAL ARTISTS
Magen Solomon, Artistic Director

**TOP CHAMBER CHOIR TEAMS WITH KLEZMER TRIO
TO TRACE THE TRAIL OF JEWISH SONGS**

**Conductor Magen Solomon and trio Veretski Pass combine musical acumen
and scholarship in upcoming concerts in SF, Palo Alto, and Oakland**

**Sylke Zimpel, well-known German composer and arranger of international
folk songs, to visit for Oakland performance**

From Shtetl to Metropolis: Jewish Musical Diaspora

DATE: Sunday, March 11, 2018, 4pm
LOCATION: Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
290 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA 94103
TICKETS: \$28 advance/\$33 at the door
\$25 advance / \$29 at the door for seniors
\$12.50 advance / \$15 at the door for guests 30 & under

Additional Performances

- **Sunday, March 18, 2018, 4pm**
Campbell Recital Hall at Braun Music Center
Stanford University
541 Lasuen Mall
Stanford, CA 94305
TICKETS: *This performance is free to the public.*
- **Sunday, March 25, 2018, 4pm**
Temple Sinai
2808 Summit Street
Oakland, CA 94609
TICKETS: \$28 advance/\$33 at the door
\$25 advance / \$29 at the door for seniors
\$12.50 advance / \$15 at the door for guests 30 & under

*Tickets, and reservations for March 18, 2018, are available via www.sfca.org/tickets.
Customers may call 415-494-8149 or email tickets@sfca.org for more information.*

San Francisco, February 7, 2018 — **San Francisco Choral Artists (SFCA)** continues
its 2017-18 season with *From Shtetl to Metropolis: Jewish Musical Diaspora*, a

San Francisco Choral Artists -- *From Shtetl to Metropolis* -- March 11, 18, 25, 2018
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collaboration with klezmer trio **Veretski Pass** exploring the evolution of Jewish music as Jewish people have dispersed around the world. The program will be performed three times, in San Francisco's Mission District at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav on March 11, 2018, in Palo Alto on the campus of Stanford University on March 18, 2018, and in Oakland at Temple Sinai on March 25, 2018.

The Choral Artists, led by Artistic Director and Conductor **Magen Solomon**, will premiere a new work by their *2017-18 Composer-Not-in-Residence* **Sylke Zimpel**. Based in Dresden, Germany, Zimpel is one of the premiere arrangers of Yiddish and Sephardic folk music. She will travel to the Bay Area for the third performance, at Oakland's Temple Sinai, of her new composition, "Der Regn Zingt," a setting of four miniatures in Yiddish, with text by the Polish poet Rajzel Zychlinksi (1910 - 2001).

The full program of *From Shtetl to Metropolis* will highlight Jewish music, from simple songs to edgy experiments, featuring 20th-Century and contemporary composers:

- **Arnold Schoenberg's** "De Profundis" Op. 50B, the composer's final work, a setting of Psalm 130 in Hebrew
- "Psalm 150 Mizmorei Tehilim" by Israeli composer **Tzvi Avni** (b. 1927), laureate of the Israel Prize and Professor at the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance
- Three movements from "Les Deux Cité" by **Darius Milhaud**, with text by the composer's close friend, the French poet Paul Claudel
- "They Disappear" by **Matt Van Brink** (New York), for mixed choir and violin, with text in Yiddish by poet Abraham Reisen
- "Farloyrn iz farloyn; The Ballad of the Lost Lamb" a new work by *SFCA Composer-in-Residence* **Michael Kaulkin** based on a Yiddish story by 20th-Century poet Itzik Manger

The Choral Artists, led by Artistic Director Magen Solomon, have been widely recognized for imaginative programming and superior musicianship over their more than three-decade history in the Bay Area. *San Francisco Classical Voice* deemed SFCA's December 2017 concert program as "90 minutes of pure delight" and "a perfect way to spend a late afternoon," praising the "exquisite singing." SFCA was awarded the Chorus America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming in 2012 and again in 2015.

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO CHORAL ARTISTS

San Francisco Choral Artists presents imaginative programs of new and old works that entice, reward, inspire, and intellectually challenge listeners and performers. The Choral Artists have brought over 250 world premieres to Bay Area audiences in stunning performances of new works alongside music of the last 600 years. They have released four recordings, sung at national conferences, and twice earned the Chorus America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming.

Under the *Roger Nixon Living Music Initiative*, SFCA provides support for new works by living composers through six programs for composers in all stages of their careers; these programs are expanding the repertoire for chamber choir. The 2017-18 season features a new work by the winner of the *New Voices Project* for composers under 30, world premieres of new pieces by the *Composers-in-* and *Not-in-Residence* for each concert set, plus special *SFCA+1* collaborations.

About Artistic Director Magen Solomon

Artistic Director since 1995, Magen Solomon avidly cultivates engagements with living composers to bridge the gulf between audience, composer, and performer. The Choral Artists are known for their imaginative concerts—at once musically, intellectually, and emotionally engaging; composer Ted Allen called SFCA “the choral composer’s dream choir.” Under her leadership SFCA has established the *Composer-in-* and *Not-in-Residence* programs, the *Composers Invitational*, the *New Voices Project* competition to help launch the artistic careers of young composers under age 30, *SFCA+1* to expand the repertoire for chamber choir and a single instrument, and the *Wild Card* Program to expand SFCA composer support. Active nationally as a guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician, Dr. Solomon is also Artistic Director of the San Francisco Bach Choir, has taught at major colleges and universities, and directed the Oakland Symphony Chorus for twelve years.

About Guest Ensemble Veretski Pass

Veretski Pass offers a unique and exciting combination of virtuosic musicianship and raw energy that has excited concertgoers across the world. The trio plays Old Country Music with origins in the Ottoman Empire, once fabled as the borderlands of the East and the West. In a true collage of Carpathian, Jewish, Rumanian and Ottoman styles, typical suites contain dances from Moldavia and Bessarabia; Jewish melodies from Poland and Rumania; Hutzul wedding music from Carpathian-Ruthenia; and haunting Rebetic aires from Smyrna, seamlessly integrated with original compositions.

About *Composer-Not-in-Residence* Sylke Zimpel

Sylke Zimpel studied composition at Dresden High school of Music and choral conducting at Weimar and Lyon. Since 1986 she has worked as a freelance composer and conductor. The focus of her compositional work is setting modern poetry to music for all kinds of choirs and arrangements of folksongs, with a special interest in Eastern European and Yiddish folksongs. Zimpel has won several composition awards and scholarships in her own country and abroad, the most recent in Casa Baldi in Olevano Romano, Italy. In Dresden, she founded and has lead the women's choir femmes vocales since 1994, and chorbühne TRITONUS dresden since 1984. Both ensembles perform contemporary choral music as well as international folksongs in new settings.

About *Composer-in-Residence* Michael Kaulkin

Oakland composer Michael Kaulkin's choral, orchestral and chamber music has been performed around the world. In the Bay Area, his works have been performed by the Oakland East Bay Symphony, San Francisco Choral Artists, Pacific Mozart Ensemble, Mission Chamber Orchestra, LIEDER ALIVE! among others. A native of Washington, D.C., he holds a Master of Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he studied composition with Conrad Susa after a previous 3-year period studying composition and choral conducting at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary. In addition to composing, he juggles positions as Assistant Music Director of San Francisco's Calling All Choir and on the Musicianship and Composition faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory's Pre-College Division. Kaulkin is also the founder of Swirly Music, providing self-publishing composers with an online storefront for their works in print.

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