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SAN FRANCISCO CHORAL ARTISTS

Magen Solomon, Artistic Director

21st-CENTURY BAROQUE PROGRAM PAIRS **ADVENTUROUS CHOIR WITH BAROQUE STRINGS**

Unique Collaboration Offers Six World Premiere Performances

21st-Century Baroque

- Sunday, June 5, 2016, 4:00 pm
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco 94109
- Saturday, June 11, 2016, 8:00 pm
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto 94306
- Sunday, June 12, 2016, 4:00 pm
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Avenue, Oakland 94610

San Francisco, April 22, 2016 — **San Francisco Choral Artists** (SFCA) joins forces with the Baroque string ensemble **Galax Quartet** in a diverse program of contemporary and Baroque music in three concerts June 5, 11, and 12 in San Francisco, Palo Alto, and Oakland.

The pairing of contemporary and Baroque music and ensembles is part of SFCA's annual *SFCA+1* program, which last year resulted in a memorable partnership between violinist Mads Tolling and the 20-voice chamber ensemble. According to **SFCA Artistic Director Magen Solomon**:

"SFCA+1 opens new creative resources for singers and composers. We can explore the interplay of voices and instruments in new ways and add exciting works to the ever-evolving contemporary choral repertoire. Creating these new works, with guest artists and guest composers, always expands the choir's expressive range while bringing about completely unexpected and fascinating new music!"

The three-concert set, titled *21st-Century Baroque*, of works of Bach and Purcell together with six world premiere compositions. The most unconventional work, "Prodigal Songs" by composer **Robinson McClellan** (N.Y.), departs at times from the printed page: SFCA singers freely repeat given texts and harmonies, and members of Galax speak and sing as they play their instruments. New works by **Ted Allen** (Oakland, Calif.) and Galax's own **Roy Whelden** (Oakland, Calif.) also draw on the unusual resources of the two ensembles. Allen engages Galax in baroque-style playing of interlocking melodies to evoke kaleidoscopic effects in his "Del gran sole," while Whelden utilizes subsets of SFCA and Galax in "Credo,

while contemplating Gödel” to construct an intersection between multiple faiths and the famous mathematician’s ontological proof.

SFCA will also perform three new works composed for the choir alone. These include a set of short pieces by noted Los Angeles composer **Veronika Krausas**, inspired by the now-dismantled “Defenestration” installation at the San Francisco intersection of 6th Street and Howard Street, by Brian Goggin. Krausas memorializes the famous installation with settings of “furniture poems” by Canadian poet André Alexis. SFCA Composer-in-Residence **John Kelley** and Composer-Not-in-Residence **Shawn Crouch** also contribute new works to this program. Crouch, a recognized choral conductor as well as composer, draws inspiration from Bach’s chorale “Freu’ dich sehr, o meine Seele” in his “Dona nobis pacem.” He describes the overall effect as: “one in which past and present musical styles exist smultaneously, both nodding to the other.”

A reception will follow each performance.

TICKETS

Single tickets are \$28 in advance/\$33 at the door, or \$25 advance/ \$29 at the door for seniors; \$12.50 advance / \$15 at the door for individuals 30 and under with ID. Tickets may be purchased online at www.sfca.org, or by mailing a check or credit card number to Attention: Orders, SF Choral Artists, 55 Taylor Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. Call 415-494-8149 or email tickets@sfca.org for more information.

ABOUT GALAX QUARTET

Founded in 2005, the **Galax Quartet**—two violins, viola da gamba and 'cello—explores the realm where early music and Baroque instruments intersect with new music and living composers, in classical quartets, film scores, song cycles, jazz, and collaborations with poets and mad scientists.

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO CHORAL ARTISTS

San Francisco Choral Artists (SFCA) is a 20-voice chamber choir dedicated to presenting imaginative programming of diverse repertoire. SFCA has brought over 240 world premieres to Bay Area audiences in eclectic programs and stunning performances which offer 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 expansive support for new works by living composers through five programs for composers in all stages of their careers, including the *New Voices Project* for composers under 30, the *Composer-in-Residence* and *Composer-Not-in-Residence* programs, the *Composers Invitational*, and *Wild Card Commissions*. With SFCA’s newest program, *SFCA+1*, the ensemble fosters yet more innovative repertoire in programs featuring instrumental partners (last season, jazz/classical violinist Mads Tolling). SFCA has also collaborated with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, The Alexander String Quartet, Veretski Pass, Composers, Inc. and The Whole Noyse.

SFCA Artistic Director since 1994, **Magen Solomon** avidly cultivates engagements with living composers to bridge the gulf between audience, composer, and performer. An innovative teacher and conductor, Solomon is active across the US and abroad as clinician, teacher, and guest conductor, and she has collaborated on performances of major choral works with Michael Tilson Thomas, Kent Nagano, Nicolas McGegan, Christoph von Dohnányi, and Helmuth Rilling, among others.

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