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## **SAN FRANCISCO CHORAL ARTISTS**

Magen Solomon, Artistic Director

### **EXPLORES OUR PLANET'S RICH AND VARIED CHORAL CULTURES IN THREE BAY AREA PERFORMANCES**

**Concerts in Oakland, Palo Alto, and San Francisco journey through cultural combinations, juxtapositions, and evolutions together with percussionist Peter Maund**

#### ***East Meets West and Other Musical Marriages***

- Sunday, June 4, 2017, 4pm  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco 94109
- Saturday, June 10, 2017, 8pm  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto 94306
- Sunday, June 11, 2017, 4pm  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Avenue, Oakland 94610

San Francisco, May 8, 2017 — **San Francisco Choral Artists (SFCA)** concludes its 2016–17 season with a musical journey through Asia and the Middle East, through South and North America. The award-winning chamber choir, conducted by **Magen Solomon**, is joined by percussionist **Peter Maund** in an ambitious program exploring our planet's rich and varied choral cultures.

Magen Solomon explains: "In this program of 'mixed marriages' we hear Eastern musical styles, tone production, and harmonies meet those of the West; and witness unusual juxtapositions, like an American folksong as Renaissance polyphony, a Finnish setting of Spanish surrealist poetry. And the marriage of vocal melodies and harmonies with the rhythm of diverse percussion instruments. A whirlwind trip of musical styles, sounds and colors!"

Celebrated percussionist Peter Maund joins the choir for this unusual exploration. Described by the *Glasgow Herald* as "the most considerate and imaginative of

percussionists,” Maund will enrich the journey with hand drums such as doumbek, tambourine (riqq), frame drums, djembe, and other instruments, in realizations and improvisations of North African and Middle Eastern music, traditional European practices from Ireland, Turkey, and Bavaria, and folk traditions from Central African, South American, and South Asian cultures.

The Choral Artists, a cappella and together with Maund, will bring to audiences choral music in eight languages, drawing from the traditions of China, the Philippines, Korea, Japan, Finland, Eastern Europe, Africa, South America, and the Middle East. The music spans multiple centuries, and includes stunning works by **Robin Estrada**, **Einojuhani Rautavaara**, and **Peter Schickele**, and the premiere of new pieces by **Jean Ahn**, **Elinor Armer**, and **Paul Chihara**.

*San Francisco Classical Voice* praised the Choral Artists for the skillful programming of its March 2017 concert set, *Witches, Saints, and Mothers: Music By and About Women*: “SFCA had no difficulty at all putting together a big and varied program on which fully 75 percent of the works were by female composers... We owe thanks to her [Solomon] and SFCA for their work in making women’s voices heard, loud and clear.” *Artsf.com* has placed the choir “...amongst the foremost unaccompanied singing groups...on this or any other coast.” SFCA was awarded the Chorus America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming in 2012 and again in 2015.

## **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. Single tickets for all performances are on sale now. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.sfca.org](http://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](mailto:tickets@sfca.org) for more information.

## **ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO CHORAL ARTISTS**

San Francisco Choral Artists (SFCA) is a chamber choir dedicated to presenting imaginative programming of diverse repertoire. SFCA has brought more than 250 world premieres to Bay Area audiences in eclectic programs and stunning performances which offer new works alongside music of the last 600 years. The ensemble has 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 2016–17 season features the world premieres of new pieces by the *Composers-in-* and *Not-in-Residence* for each concert, plus new works by the winners of the ***New Voices Project, open to composers under 30***. SFCA has featured Mads Tolling and the Galax Quartet as guest artists for the *SFCA+1* program, and has also collaborated with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, The Alexander String Quartet, Veretski Pass, Composers Inc. and The Whole Noyse.

*San Francisco Choral Artists is grateful for the support of a broad community of donors and grantors, including: Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, the Ann & Gordon Getty Foundation, the Zellerbach Family Foundation, Alternative Telecom Solutions, AT&T, Cadence, IBM, Mentor Graphics, Microsoft and Salesforce.*

### **About Artistic Director Magen Solomon**

SFCA Artistic Director since 1995, **Magen Solomon** avidly cultivates engagements with living composers to bridge the gulf between audience, composer and performer. Under her leadership, the Choral Artists have released several recordings, performed at ACDA and Chorus America conferences, and earned national awards. 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.” Active nationally as a guest conductor, adjudicator and clinician, Solomon is also Artistic Director of the San Francisco Bach Choir, conductor of the UC Berkeley Chamber Chorus, has taught at other major colleges and universities, and directed the Oakland Symphony Chorus for twelve years.

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