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SAN FRANCISCO CHORAL ARTISTS

Magen Solomon, Artistic Director

ANNOUNCES 2016–17 SEASON in OAKLAND, SAN FRANCISCO AND PALO ALTO

Three eclectic programs highlight the choir's imaginative programming, including new works by composers Elinor Armer and Paul Chihara, and a collaboration with percussionist Peter Maund

Program 1: *Light in Winter*

- Saturday, December 10, 2016, 8pm
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto 94306
- Sunday, December 11, 2016, 4pm
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Avenue, Oakland 94610
- Sunday, December 18, 2016, 4pm
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco 94109

Program 2: *Witches, Saints, and Mothers: music by and about women*

- Sunday, March 19, 2017, 4pm
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Avenue, Oakland 94610
- Saturday, March 25, 2017, 8pm
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto 94306
- Sunday, March 26, 2017, 4pm
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco 94109

Program 3: *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, October 24, 2016 — **San Francisco Choral Artists (SFCA)** announces its 2016–17 season, with three characteristically diverse and artfully-constructed programs presented in December, March and June in venues in

Oakland, San Francisco and Palo Alto. This chamber choir, led by Artistic Director **Magen Solomon**, has been widely recognized for imaginative programming and superior musicianship over its more than three-decade history in the Bay Area. Each of the three programs this season includes the world premiere of a new commissioned work by *Composer-in-Residence*, **Elinor Armer**, and by *Composer-Not-in-Residence*, **Paul Chihara**. Armer has been a force in the Bay Area music community for decades, having founded the composition department at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Chihara, also a significant educator on the West Coast as founder of UCLA's Visual Media program, is perhaps best known for his prolific work scoring Hollywood films. The Choral Artists are also joined by versatile percussionist **Peter Maund**, this year's *SFCA+1* Artist, for a new collaboration to close the season.

San Francisco Classical Voice has praised the Choral Artists for a "wide dynamic range...clear enunciation, sensitive harmonic blend, and tight rhythmic cohesion," and *artsf.com* has placed the choir "...amongst the foremost unaccompanied singing groups...on this or any other coast." Last year, SFCA was awarded the Chorus America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming.

Magen Solomon, Artistic Director: "We are so honored to be collaborating this season with two wonderful master composers, artists of depth, insight and humor. I have been a fan of Elinor's and Paul's works for several decades, and to be able to collaborate closely with them is both enlightening and a lot of fun. Peter Maund has a huge and well-deserved national reputation for being one of the most versatile percussionists. The *SFCA+1* project will give us the opportunity to explore many new sound worlds and create some great new music in the process."

The season launches with *Light In Winter* (December 10, 11, 18, 2016), a holiday inspired program of ancient and modern music that celebrates the convergence of Hanukkah, Christmas, and the Solstice. The choir sings works sacred, contemplative, and joyous, by Samuel Barber, Monica Houghton, Zoltán Kodály, Orlande de Lassus, Caroline Mallonée, Roger Nixon, Francis Poulenc, Robert Strassburg, Sergei Taneyev and others. This concert also features the first two new commissions by *Composers-in-* and *Not-in-Residence*, Elinor Armer and Paul Chihara.

The program *Witches, Saints, and Mothers* (March 19, 25, 26, 2017) invokes the voices of women past and present through poetry, letters, lullabies, laments and proclamations. The musical selections will consider women's roles throughout history—some chosen, some not. The concert features works by women composers

from several eras, including both legendary voices and fresh new talent, such as Hildegard von Bingen, Fanny Hensel, Amy Beach, Pauline Oliveros, Chen Yi, Meredith Monk, and Ysaye Maria Barnwell. This year's winner of the SFCA *New Voices Project*, a commissioning competition for composers under age 30, will also have their new work premiered by the choir.

For *East Meets West* (June 4, 10, 11, 2017), the concluding program of the 2016–17 season, the SFCA vocalists traverse the rich musical cultures of Asia and the Middle East, South and North America with a program of traditional and contemporary works. Celebrated percussionist and musical polymath, Peter Maund, who has been called “astoundingly virtuosic” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, joins the choir on this musical journey.

2016-17 Guest Performances

Each year, SFCA is the featured guest in performances around the Bay Area, often in collaboration with instrumental ensembles or other choirs. SFCA also presents occasional special concerts and partners with educators in student-composer workshops and public performances. This season, SFCA performs Mozart's Requiem in collaboration with St. Dominic's Solemn Mass Choir, Simon Berry conducting, on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at St. Dominic's Catholic Church, San Francisco. More information is available at www.stdominics.org. In addition, SFCA collaborates with the New Choir, conducted by Eileen Chang, for the program *Pacific Bridges*, on April 22–23, 2017 at locations in the East Bay and Palo Alto. For more details as they are announced, visit www.newchoir.org.

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, AT&T, Cadence, IBM, Microsoft and Salesforce.

TICKETS

Season subscriptions are priced at \$75, with a discounted price of \$67 for seniors 65 and over. Single tickets for all concerts 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, 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 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 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 a new work by the winner 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.

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.

2017 *Composer-in-Residence* Elinor Armer

Elinor Armer was born in Oakland, grew up in Davis, and attended Mills College and San Francisco State University, studying composition with Darius Milhaud, Leon Kirchner and Roger Nixon, and piano with Alexander Libermann. In 1985 she established the Composition Department at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and served as chair for eleven years. Armer has performed and lectured

throughout the country, and her works are performed regularly in the United States and abroad.

2017 *Composer-Not-in-Residence* Paul Chihara

Paul Chihara has composed scores for more than 100 motion picture films and television, founded the UCLA Visual Media graduate program, and teaches Film Scoring at New York University. He received his doctorate from Cornell University, and also studied with Nadia Boulanger, Ernst Pepping and Gunther Schuller. He was composer in residence at San Francisco Ballet from 1973 to 1986, and has received the Fulbright and Guggenheim awards, and commissions from the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic, Juilliard Ensemble and numerous others.

2016 *SFCA+1* Artist Peter Maund

Peter Maund studied percussion at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and music, folklore and ethnomusicology at UC Berkeley. A founding member of Ensemble Alcatraz and Alasdair Fraser's Skyedance, he has performed with Anonymous 4, Chanticleer, Davka, El Mundo, Kitka, Los Cenzontles, Musica Pacifica, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Voices of Music. Maund has taught at UC Berkeley and Amherst Early Music, and can be heard on more than 50 recordings.

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