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**SAN FRANCISCO CHORAL ARTISTS**  
Magen Solomon, Artistic Director

**CHAMBER CHOIR WELCOMES ACCLAIMED GUESTS BRIAN  
THORSETT, TENOR AND TERESA MCCOLLOUGH, PIANO FOR  
“MORE PIANOS THAN BATHTUBS: AMERICA’S MUSIC”**

**Artistic Director Magen Solomon draws on 100+ years of  
American song in far-reaching program**

**Concerts in San Francisco, Palo Alto, and Oakland to highlight  
the diversity of American song**

***More Pianos Than Bathtubs: America’s music***

***DATES &*** Sunday, June 10, 2018, 4pm

***LOCATIONS:*** St. Mark’s Lutheran Church  
1111 O’Farrell Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

**Saturday, June 16, 2018, 8pm**

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church  
600 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306

**Sunday, June 17, 2018, 4pm**

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church  
114 Montecito Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610

***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  
*Advance tickets available via [www.sfca.org/tickets](http://www.sfca.org/tickets).*  
*Customers may call 415-494-8149 or email [tickets@sfca.org](mailto:tickets@sfca.org) for  
more information.*

San Francisco, May 8, 2018 — **San Francisco Choral Artists** (SFCA) concludes its 2017-18 season with *More Pianos Than Bathtubs: America’s music*, a program that revisits a time when every American living room was filled with song. The concert features a variety of song arrangements, works by early American composers

San Francisco Choral Artists -- *More Pianos Than Bathtubs* -- June 10, 16, 17, 2018  
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**Stephen Foster** and **Lowell Mason**, and more recent tunes, and will be performed in San Francisco, Palo Alto, and Oakland.

The Choral Artists, led by Artistic Director and Conductor **Magen Solomon**, will be joined for *More Pianos Than Bathtubs* by two special guest performers, the tenor **Brian Thorsett**, and pianist **Teresa McCollough**. Both performers are American music specialists; together with San Francisco Choral Artists, they will explore the long tradition of American song, including spirituals, shapenote hymns, folk songs, work songs, and play songs.

The full program of *More Pianos Than Bathtubs* invites audiences in a “cozy” environment with casual staging, and a repertoire that goes far beyond standard repertoire for a chamber choir. In addition to renditions of well-known early American tunes by Stephen Foster, SFCA will tackle pieces by **Charles Ives**, **John Cage**, **William Grant Still**, **Aaron Copland**, and two new works written for the occasion, by *SFCA Composer-in-Residence* **Michael Kaulkin** and *SFCA Composer-Not-in-Residence* **Sylke Zimpel**.

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 Artist Brian Thorsett**

Hailed as “a strikingly gifted tenor, with a deeply moving, unblemished voice” (sfmusicjournal.com), Brian Thorsett is excelling in opera, oratorio and recital across the world. He has been seen and heard in over 100 diverse operatic roles, ranging from Monteverdi to Britten, back to Rameau and ahead again to works composed specifically for his talents. As a concert singer Thorsett fosters a stylistically diversified repertoire of over 250 works, which has taken him to concert halls across the US and Europe. Future engagements include Evangelist and soloist in Bach’s St. Matthew Passion, St. John Passion, Mass in B minor, Mass in G minor and several cantatas, Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Britten’s *War Requiem* and *Cantata Misericordium*, the *Requiems* of Mozart and Verdi, Haydn’s *Creation*, Bruckner’s *Te Deum*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, a rare performance of Blitzstein’s *Airborne Symphony* and the world premiere of Stacey Garrop’s *Terra Nostra*.

### **About Guest Artist Teresa McCollough**

Pianist Teresa McCollough has developed an international reputation for her dynamic and expressive playing. As a leading interpreter and advocate for contemporary music, she has commissioned, premiered, and performed many new compositions by today’s emerging and established composers including Alvin Singleton, Lou Harrison, Joan Tower, Alex Shapiro, Belinda Reynolds, Zhou Long, Charles Griffin, David Rakowski, Tomas Svoboda, Henry Martin, George Crumb, and

others. McCollough has performed around the world, appeared on local and national television and radio, with orchestras across the United States, and in festivals including the Aspen Music Festival, the New American Music Festival, the Aki Festival of New Music, April in Santa Cruz, the Festivale Internazionale di Cremona, Spoleto Festival-USA, and others.

**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.

**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.

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