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## **SAN FRANCISCO CHORAL ARTISTS**

**Magen Solomon, Artistic Director**

### **ANNOUNCES 2017-18 SEASON in OAKLAND, SAN FRANCISCO and PALO ALTO**

**Three eclectic programs highlight the chamber choir's imaginative programming, with guest artists Veretski Pass, Brian Thorsett, and Teresa McCollough**

#### ***Program 1: A Rebel's Christmas: Martin Luther's Musical Reformation***

- Saturday, December 9, 2017, 8pm  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto 94306
- Sunday, December 10, 2017, 4pm  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Avenue, Oakland 94610
- Sunday, December 17, 2017, 4pm  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco 94109

#### ***Program 2: From Shtetl to Metropolis: Jewish Musical Diaspora***

- Sunday, March 11, 2018, 4pm  
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores Street, San Francisco 94103
- Sunday, March 18, 2018, 4pm  
Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue, Palo Alto 94306
- Sunday, March 25, 2018, 4pm  
Temple Sinai, 2808 Summit Street, Oakland (enter at Webster & 28th St.) 94609

#### ***Program 3: More Pianos Than Bathtubs: America's Music***

- Sunday, June 10, 2018, 4pm  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco 94109
- Saturday, June 16, 2018, 8pm  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto 94306
- Sunday, June 17, 2018, 4pm  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Avenue, Oakland 94610

San Francisco, September 28, 2017 — **San Francisco Choral Artists (SFCA)** announces its 2017-18 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.

*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.” SFCA was awarded the Chorus America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming in 2012 and again in 2015.

The season launches with *A Rebel's Christmas: Martin Luther's Musical Reformation* (December 9, 10, 17, 2017), a holiday inspired program that explores the roots of beloved church tunes, follows them into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and examines how one man changed the course of music. The choir will perform works by Bach, Brahms, Distler, Handl, Mendelssohn, Praetorius, Schein, and Walther. 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.

The program *From Shtetl to Metropolis: Jewish Musical Diaspora* (March 11, 18, 25, 2018) finds SFCA teaming up again with Klezmer trio Veretski Pass. As Jews have dispersed around the world, their music has spread and evolved. Improvised folk styles and carefully crafted new work, beloved simple songs and edgy musical experiments -- all are part of the Jewish musical diaspora and are found at festivals, in synagogues and in concert halls. This concert set features works by Bernstein, Copland, Gershwin, Weill, Milhaud, Sharlin, Van Brink, and one of the premiere arrangers of Yiddish and Sephardic folk music, and this year's Composer-Not-in-Residence, Sylke Zimpel.

For *More Pianos Than Bathtubs: America's Music* (June 10, 16, 17, 2018), the concluding program of the 2017-18 season, the SFCA vocalists explore a time in American history where there were actually more pianos than bathtubs in homes. With nationally acclaimed American music specialists Brian Thorsett, tenor, and Teresa McCollough, piano, the Choral Artists revisit a time when every living room was filled with music, and sight-singing was part of the American school curriculum. Music by Foster, Billings, MacDowell, Parker, spirituals and shapenote hymns, folk songs, work songs, and play songs.

## **2017-18 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 William Hawley's Requiem in collaboration with St. Dominic's Solemn Mass Choir, Simon Berry conducting, on Thursday, November 2, 2017 at St. Dominic's Catholic Church, San Francisco. More information is available at [www.stdominics.org](http://www.stdominics.org).

## **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. Subscriptions are available now; single tickets for all performances will go on sale October 15, 2017. 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 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.

## **GUEST ARTISTS**

**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.

Hailed as “a strikingly gifted tenor, with a deeply moving, unblemished voice” ([sfmusicjournal.com](http://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*.

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.

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