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## **SAN FRANCISCO CHORAL ARTISTS**

Magen Solomon, Artistic Director

### **PRESENTS THE VIBRANT VOICES OF WOMEN PAST AND PRESENT IN THREE BAY AREA PERFORMANCES**

**Concert presentations in Oakland, Palo Alto, and San Francisco consider women's roles through history—some chosen, some not—and feature women composers of many eras**

#### ***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

San Francisco, February 17, 2017 — **San Francisco Choral Artists** (SFCA) continues its 2016–17 season with a dynamic and sweeping program of music considering women's roles through history. The concert of a cappella chamber choir works is presented in venues in Oakland, Palo Alto, and San Francisco, and led by Artistic Director **Magen Solomon**, who has been widely recognized for her imaginative programming and superior musicianship.

The SFCA concert set ***Witches, Saints, and Mothers: Music By and About Women*** presents the vibrant voices of women past and present in their poems, letters, laments, and proclamations. The program features women composers of many eras, both legendary and newly emerging, including Hildegard von Bingen, Maddalena Casulana, Fanny Hensel, Pauline Oliveros, Chen Yi, Meredith Monk, Elinor Armer, Linda Mankin, Alice Parker, Imogen Holst, and settings of HD by the winners of the *New Voices Project*, James May and Ben Zucker.

Living composers feature prominently in this exploration of women's roles through history. In addition to the winning compositions from the *New Voices Project*, the set includes the premiere of new works by *Composer-in-Residence* **Elinor Armer** and *Composer-Not-in-Residence* **Paul Chihara**. The Choral Artists will also perform works by Leanne D. Veitch (b. Australia, resides New Zealand), SF Bay Area-based composers Tina Harrington and Linda Mankin, and prominent composers Patricia Julien (Vermont), Alice Parker (Massachusetts), and Chen Yi (b. China, resides Missouri).

The program, extensively researched by SFCA Artistic Director and Conductor Magen Solomon, draws upon texts and music spanning multiple centuries. The music's thematic sets illuminate common threads between such disparate works as Ralph Vaughan Williams' setting of "Rest" by Christina Rossetti and "Earth Seen From Above" by Meredith Monk.

As women's issues have become increasingly prominent in civic discourse, ***Witches, Saints, and Mothers*** provides selections from the long history of creativity by women writers and musicians. Included are works like Ethyl Smith's "March of the Women," a 1910 setting of the poem by Cecily Hamilton, which became an anthem for the women's suffrage movement. Folk songs and hymns will be heard alongside contemporary pieces like Patricia Julien's jazzy, sly setting of "A Large Crow" (text by April Bernard, b. 1956), and Elinor Armer's powerful new work, "She Who Continues," with text by well-known feminist and lesbian poet Judy Grahn (b. 1940).

*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.

## **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**

February 17, 2017 ### San Francisco Choral Artists - [info@sfca.org](mailto:info@sfca.org) - (415) 494-8149

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. In 2017 SFCA will collaborate with percussionist Peter Maund for its concert program *East Meets West and other musical marriages* (June 2017).

*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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