



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jorge Luis Gonzalez at 413-545-4482 or at jlg@admin.umass.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 11, 2011

- WHAT:** Violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the New Century Chamber Orchestra
- WHEN:** Thursday, November 10 at 7:30pm
- WHERE:** Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
- TICKETS:** Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/>
- IMAGES:** To download images relating to this press release please go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/pressphotos>

The Sensational and Unmistakable Violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the New Century Chamber Orchestra come to the FAC

The UMass Fine Arts Center will present a very special performance by internationally renowned violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the New Century Chamber Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 10th, in the Concert Hall. Electrifying performances, fearless interpretations and musical depth have established violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg as one of the leading violinists of our time. Salerno-Sonnenberg serves as music director of the 19-member New Century Chamber Orchestra.

The orchestra performs without a conductor; musical decisions are made collaboratively, resulting in an enhanced level of commitment on the part of the musicians to concerts of remarkable precision, passion and power. The evening's program includes Rossini's String Sonata No. 1 in G Major, Barber's *Adagio for Strings*, Bolcom's Violin Concerto *Romanza*, and Mendelssohn's Octet for strings in E-flat major, Op. 20

Uniquely gifted and creative violin virtuoso Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg continues to bring joy to audiences whether from the stage, the TV screen, or the internet. Innovative, sharp and witty, she is truly an artist whose impact on the world of classical music is as deep as her love for the art.

An internationally-acclaimed soloist and chamber musician for more than 25 years, Ms. Salerno-Sonnenberg was named Music Director and Concertmaster of the New Century Chamber Orchestra in January 2008. Nadja's first two seasons as Music Director were hailed as a tremendous success by audiences and critics alike—"a marriage that works,"

in her words, and renewing enthusiasm for “one of the most burnished and exciting ensembles in the Bay Area,” according to Rich Scheinin of the *San Jose Mercury News*.

Salerno-Sonnenberg was the subject of the 2000 Academy Award-nominated film, “Speaking in Strings,” which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. She also has had an exceptionally strong presence in American culture, having appeared on “60 Minutes,” “The Tonight Show,” “Sesame Street,” “The Charlie Rose Show,” “Live from Lincoln Center,” and many others.

The New Century Chamber Orchestra, founded in 1992, looks for fresh, exciting ways to present classical music in the San Francisco Bay Area by combining performances of extraordinary quality with innovative programming. World-renowned violin soloist, chamber musician and recording artist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg joined the ensemble as Music Director and Concertmaster in January 2008, bringing “a new sense of vitality and determination, as well as an audacious swagger that is an unmistakable fingerprint of its leader,” according to *Gramophone Magazine*.

In addition to performing classic pieces of chamber orchestra repertoire, New Century commissions important new works, breathes life into rarely heard jewels of the past, performs world premieres and brings pieces from other genres such as jazz and rock into the chamber orchestra setting. The New Century Chamber Orchestra Featured Composer Program commissions composers to write new works, with Music Director Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg as concertmaster, soloist and muse. Nadja and the orchestra established this program expand the chamber orchestra repertoire.

There will be a post-show Q & A with the performers and, at 6:30pm, a Fireside Chat at the University Club with Elizabeth Chang, violinist and member of the violin faculty at the UMass Department of Music and Dance. (Park in Lot 62 for easy access to the Club and the Concert Hall.) The performance is a Longmeadow Express event; for information on bus transportation from the Longmeadow area, dinner at the University Club, and admission to the concert, please call 413-545-3671.

Tickets for the New Century Chamber Orchestra are \$40, \$30, and \$15; Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under are \$10. For tickets call the Box Office at 545-2511, toll-free at 800-999-UMAS, or purchase online at fineartscenter.com. The performance is sponsored by Applewood: A Member of the Loomis Communities and by Baystate Health.

PHOTOS

Hi-res photos available for download: <http://www.umass.edu/fac/pressphotos>

PRESS PASSES

Limited press passes are available. Please contact Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or <mailto:sfarley@admin.umass.edu>

ABOUT THE FAC

The Fine Arts Center, located on the UMass Amherst campus, is a presenter of music, dance, theater and the visual arts, bringing hundreds of outstanding and provocative artists to the Pioneer Valley for over 35 years.

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