



S A N F R A N C I S C O
FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC

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Photo courtesy of SFJAZZ

**San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music Names
New Executive Director**

&

**SFFCM Continues to Bring Free Weekly Performances
Presidio Sessions 2017**

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San Francisco, CA, December 19th, 2016 - San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music, a premier SF Bay Area nonprofit organization dedicated to championing ensemble music and supporting musicians, announces the selection of Cory Combs as its new Executive Director. Combs will take over the position from Dominique Pelletay, who stepped down in October.

"We are very pleased to announce this appointment," reported Nancy B. Ranney, Board President. *"Combs will bring leadership, creativity and a wealth of experience to our organization and its mission."*

Combs takes the helm January 3, 2017 and is eager to work with our more than 90 affiliated ensembles and oversee the many programs and performance opportunities SFFCM offers. A bassist trained at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, Combs comes to SFFCM with an eclectic background as a performer, composer, educator, administrator and lecturer. He is currently the Director of Enrichment, Outreach, and Music at Nueva School in Hillsborough, California. Previously at SFJAZZ, he was a member of the capital campaign team for the new building on Franklin and Fell in San Francisco; designed, implemented, and oversaw six year-round education programs; and created and presented the bi-annual, sold-out, Koret Discover Jazz Series. Before his tenure at SFJAZZ, he was Director of Music at the Waldorf Middle and High School in San Francisco, Jazz Program Director for the American Festival of the Arts in Houston, and a recording and performing artist and arranger.

"I am thrilled to join San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music and support the small ensemble musical art form that has served me throughout my life as a musician, educator, patron, and fan."

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The Presidio Sessions Returns

January 13th – May 26th

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After yet another wildly successful season, the San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music returns to the Presidio's Officer's Club to put the "spark" back into live music. Every Friday evening from 6:00pm to 7:30pm, SFFCM offers top-notch performances that invite audiences young and old to relax, listen, and enjoy. Each performance is curated to showcase the abundant diversity of the Bay Area's musical community, highlighting a spectrum from traditional jazz and classical to cutting edge new music. Thanks to their partnership with the Presidio Trust, SFFCM can proudly offer all concerts for free.

In the intimate atmosphere of a house concert, listeners are free to move comfortably between Arguello, the destination restaurant and bar of the Presidio, and the performances in the elegantly renovated Moraga Room. This unique blend of a casual atmosphere and high quality performances encourages both performers and listeners to engage with each other over the art of music, strengthening our shared community.

Presidio Sessions 2017 : List of Ensembles by Genre

(View complete schedule with artist bios at www.sffcm.org)

Classical and Contemporary Music

1/27/2017 - Ensemble for These Times
2/3/2017 - Michael Tan + Telegraph Quartet
3/3/2017 - Circadian Quartet
3/24/2017 - Stenberg | Cahill Duo
4/7/2017 - Sylvestris Quartet
4/21/2017 - Amaranth Quartet
5/12/2017 - Vajra Voices

New Music

1/20/2017 - Musical Art Quintet
2/17/2017 - Paul Drescher Ensemble
3/10/2017 - Diana Gamos
4/28/2017 - Ila Cantor's *Encanto*
5/19/2017 - Redwood Tango Ensemble

Jazz and Creative Music

1/13/2017 - Destiny Muhammad's Alice Coltrane Project
2/10/2017 - David James's GPS
2/24/2017 - Myra Melford
3/17/2017 - Lisa Mezzacappa's avantNOIR
3/31/2017 - Jon Jangtet
4/14/2017 - TBD-a quartet (Mario Garneri)
5/5/2017 - Kasey Knudsen Sextet
5/26/2017 - Rova Saxophone Quartet

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ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC

San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music (SFFCM) was incorporated in 1998 as an organization dedicated to making chamber music a vital part of the cultural life in the San Francisco Bay Area. SFFCM's mission is to increase audiences for all kinds of chamber music, and generate support for a wide range of musical activity through performance opportunities, career development, workshops, education and training. Today, SFFCM serves artists and communities across Northern California, a region rich in the arts, but also competitive and challenging for small ensembles across genres as diverse as baroque and classical to contemporary, jazz and improvised music. SFFCM creates pathways to sustainable careers for musicians dedicated to ensemble music while reaching out to diverse audiences by providing accessible concert experiences. In 2010, SFFCM was nationally recognized by Chamber Music America when it received the prestigious CMAcclaim Award for its contributions in the field of chamber music.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

SAN FRANCISCO FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC PRESENTS

What: Presidio Session

Description: The Presidio Sessions puts the “life” back into live music with free evening performances that invite you to move and mingle. Performances range from jazz to classical music from around the world, and are curated by San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music in partnership with the Presidio Trust. In the intimate atmosphere of a house concert, listeners can savor, lounge and learn as they wish. Guests move comfortably between Arguello, the destination restaurant and bar, and the performances in Moraga Hall, with opportunities to converse with performers and each other.

Where: 50 Moraga Ave, San Francisco *Parking in front of building . free after 6:00*

When: Fridays Night Concerts 6:00 – 7:30pm. *(January 13th – May 26th)*

Tickets: Admission is free; Seat Reservations with Eventbrite

Information: For more information visit www.sffcm.org, or call (415) 967-3326.

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