



MEDIA CONTACT
Rik Malone
415.503.6205 | rik.malone@sfc.edu

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CONSERVATORY'S NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE HONORS CONRAD SUSA WITH OPERA PREMIERE

The San Francisco Conservatory of Music's new music ensemble BluePrint, under the artistic direction of Nicole Paiement, presents "Homage to Conrad Susa," honoring the longtime Conservatory faculty member by premiering the 2009 revised final version of his opera *The Love of Don Perlimplín*, Saturday, March 13 at 8:00 pm in the Conservatory's Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall.

A story of love and loss at turns comedic and tragic, *The Love of Don Perlimplín* is based on Federico García Lorca's play *The Love of Don Perlimplín and Belisa in the Garden*, "an erotic lace-paper valentine in a prologue and three scenes." The elderly bachelor Perlimplín is persuaded to marry the much younger Belisa, only to discover that the woman has taken on other lovers. In despair, Perlimplín devises a plan to disguise himself as a younger man and win the love of his wife. Though he ultimately gains her love in this guise, Perlimplín the elder man challenges his "rival" (who is actually himself) to a duel and sacrifices his own life, just as Belisa comes to realize her true love for Perlimplín.

In a review of the opera's original version from 1984, Tim Page of *The New York Times* wrote, "Mr. Susa has a gift for arching, immediately accessible melodies, and his scoring is expertly deft, utilizing an unusual grouping of instruments, including the harpsichord, which gives the sound a bright neo-classical patina. Some yearning orchestral interludes contain passages of shimmering beauty. In

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addition, Mr. Susa keeps the viewer interested in the opera - in its action, and in the characters whom he has endowed with such vivid life.”

A Conservatory faculty member since 1988, Susa was resident composer for the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego and served as dramaturge for the O’Neill Center in Connecticut. He has written numerous scores for documentary films and PBS television productions, choral and instrumental works, and operas (*Transformations*, *Black River*, *The Love of Don Perlimplín*, *The Dangerous Liaisons*, *The Wise Women*) commissioned by the Minnesota Opera Company, San Francisco Opera and Pepsico. Honors bestowed upon Susa include the George Gershwin Memorial Scholarship, the Gretchaninoff Prize and two Ford Foundation Fellowships.

Tickets for the event are \$20, \$15 for students, seniors and Friends of the Conservatory. Call 415.503.6275 or visit www.sfcm.edu.

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WHO: BluePrint, Nicole Paiement, artistic director

WHAT: “Homage to Conrad Susa,” featuring the premiere of *The Love of Don Perlimplín* (2009 revised final version)

WHERE: Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak Street, San Francisco

WHEN: Saturday, March 13, 2010, 8:00 pm

WHY: To celebrate longtime Conservatory faculty member Susa’s distinguished career

About San Francisco Conservatory of Music:

Founded in 1917, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music is the oldest conservatory west of the Mississippi River and has earned an international reputation for producing musicians of the highest caliber. Notable alumni include Yehudi Menuhin, Isaac Stern, Jeffrey Kahane, and Aaron Jay Kernis, among others. The Conservatory offers its more than 400 collegiate and graduate students fully accredited Bachelor’s and Master’s degree programs in composition and instrumental and vocal performance. Its Preparatory Division provides exceptionally high standards of musical excellence and personal attention to more than 550 younger students. The Conservatory’s faculty and students give more than 400 public performances each year, many of which are offered to the public at no charge. Formerly located at 19th Avenue and Ortega Street in San Francisco’s Sunset District, the Conservatory moved to its new home in the heart of San Francisco’s Civic Center in 2006. The new school is an architectural and acoustical masterwork for the Conservatory’s second century. Its Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall was lauded by *The New York Times* as the “most enticing classical-music setting” in the San Francisco Bay Area.

For more information, visit www.sfcm.edu.