

## **SIRIUS QUARTET**

### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

Through our longstanding relationships with several German music conservatories, Malaysian universities, and the educational programs at American Composers Orchestra and the Kaufman Music Center, Sirius Quartet has developed programs of workshops and master classes for performers and composers at all levels. These can be a single concert with Q & A or more elaborate interactive music making.

### **21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CHAMBER MUSIC MASTERCLASSES**

#### **SINGLE SESSION OR MULTI-DAY RESIDENCIES**

For college level performers, we have developed a program of coaching for student quartets and larger ensembles in avant-garde and experimental repertoire. Using works from Arvo Part to John Zorn, the Sirius Quartet will help the students explore these extended techniques and styles. Sirius can join in the ensemble in playing, or simply coach. At the end of the week the student ensembles will present a concert. With supplemental improvisation workshops open to all throughout the week, Sirius and other students can join in the final performance, a free improvisation/conduction (al a Butch Morris) or large ensemble process piece like Elliot Sharp's "SyndaKit."

### **IMPROVISATION WORKSHOPS**

#### **SINGLE SESSION - MULTI-DAY**

The quartet gives improvisation workshops in a setting inspired by West African drumming ensembles. The focus is listening and playing, not reading music. Using singing, clapping and instruments, the whole group creates a rhythm and harmonic foundation, from which each individual steps up to solo. Everyone plays in the "rhythm section" and experiences the music continuously. By encouraging instrumentalists to get their focus off the music stand, these improvisation workshops invite a more immediate experience with and harmony, rhythm and style, deepening a player's relationship with their instrument.

Examples of more advanced coaching techniques can be found in Sirius violinist, Gregor Huebner's textbook:

Gregor Huebner  
Exercises, Etudes, and Concert Pieces  
A creative guide for contemporary improvising violinists  
2009 by advanced music  
ISBN 3-89221-099-3

### **ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCES**

Sirius has composed orchestral pieces appropriate for college level orchestras. In addition to two violin concertos and a cello concerto, we have Cuban Impressions, a four-movement journey through Latin American musical styles featuring improvisation for the principal players. This concerto grosso

for string quartet and string orchestra can be opened up to allow any student to take an improvised solo with the orchestra. This is the ideal piece to perform at the end of a week-long Sirius residency.

These works can be heard on:

Racing Minds  
Neu Klang Records  
4 012116 404937

## **COMPOSITION WORKSHOPS** SINGLE OR MULTI-DAY

Interactive lecture concerts for composers demonstrating extended techniques in contemporary string playing drawn from scores. In addition to extensive Q & A with student composers including critiques and performances of student scores, the Sirius can also perform works by faculty members or prizewinning students as part of a Sirius concert.