

*TSDCA annual meeting string quartet thought -*

*Hi all - I sent this to a few folks last week, now sharing it with you all - my thoughts about using a string quartet for a composition session and then a mic session -*

I'd mentioned maybe mic-ing a string quartet as a topic (ie mic-ing string instruments) so thinking beyond that - there's a lot of composition involving extended techniques on string instruments - two things that come quickly to mind are Nina Shekhar's recent piece (part of the concert my piece was in in LA last week) - and Gabriella Smith's CARROT REVOLUTION - and there are (for sure) many many many others -

So I was thinking first a session with a string quartet exploring/demonstrating what composers have been doing with them nowadays - historically they've always been a platform for experiment before you write for a larger group, among other things, how rhythmical things have come forward more and more. Nina S., who some of you know from the salons, and who is composing a lot nowadays - new pieces for both the NY & LA Phil - is currently teaching at the New School. And in NY, though this might take some digging, if it comes to it, there are for sure student quartets who might not cost as much and are excellent players - this is very much their repertoire - perhaps Nina could co-host, that sorta thing - (Gabriella is west coast based, and though we've corresponded, we've never met). The aim would be to open up the sounds of the instruments/the quartet and see what our members/composers can do about it -

*(There are of course many professional string quartets too, just giving some thought to budget and other things....)*

And then, part two - keep the quartet longer and bring in Scott L or someone like him and bring in the microphones and have at it - mic instruments as a group, solo, close mic, area mic, different mics etc etc. If it came down to it, perhaps they also play things that are, for want of a better word, more tonal - and if we wanted to get more ambitious (not unreasonably though) maybe bring in a guitar to mix with strings - acoustic, maybe electric too. I could figure out arrangement wise what it might be and help so they could all play together and keep it easily sight readable as needed.

Lots to consider, lots of variables - talk with you all at the meeting later this week - thanks -

Michael