





The Marian Anderson String Quartet

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AN INVITATION TO APPLY



Marian

Anderson

String

Quartet

Negro

Spiritual

Renaissance

Project





The Marian Anderson String Quartet

Negro Spiritual Renaissance Commissioning Project

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What is the Marian Anderson String Quartet Negro Spiritual Renaissance Project?

This project in general will bring light to four ideas, the depth of the American Negro Spiritual, Marian Anderson's legacy, the beauty of the string quartet and the breadth of great composers of this era. This project fits directly into the quartet's mission to create and diverse audiences in the field of classical music.

Project Goal

The overall vision is to leave behind a compilation of American Negro Spirituals arranged for the string quartet. This will allow for more artists and audiences to be exposed to this body of American Music. Just as Harry Burleigh, James Weldon Johnson ,J. Rosamond Johnson and Hall Johnson left volumes of spirituals for singers such as Marian Anderson and Paul Robeson, we hope to carry on that tradition within the beautiful genre of the string quartet. We would like to take these works to another level of exposure and eternal longevity.

Project Description

To strengthen our vision in future seasons, the Marian Anderson String Quartet invites composers to arrange a collection of Negro Spirituals in any form composed for the Marian Anderson String Quartet and its many talents (ie string quartet, singing, public speaking, drumming, movement and various forms of performance art). Through the Negro Spiritual Renaissance Commissioning Project the Marian Anderson String Quartet will commission, premiere and tour new works written by established and emerging composers of diverse musical

backgrounds. The ultimate vision is a compilation of recordings and published editions of our commissions to leave for listeners and musicians for generations.

The Negro Spiritual Compositions will primarily be performed as a part of, but not limited to the Marian Anderson String Quartet's signature concert program entitled; *Songs of the Middle Passage*.

Songs of the Middle Passage is inspired by the cultural traditions of the Middle Passage which was the stage of the triangular trade in which millions of people from Africa were shipped to the New World. The program is a catalyst promoting music of and dedicated to the African Diaspora. Within this program the MASQ performs new music and multimedia pieces as well as classic works from the 17th and 18th century that have yet to be performed on the concert stage. The Negro Spiritual Project is based on the concept that the audiences of the world will experience this old tradition in a new form driven by the Marian Anderson String Quartet. The other exciting aspect we believe is that every performance we expose the world to another established or emerging composer as well as a spiritual with which the audience may be unfamiliar.

Two Sample Programs:

PROGRAM 1: Marian Anderson String Quartet Songs of the Middle Passage©

Chevalier de St. Georges String Quartet in C Major

George Bridgetower Minuets, cotillions & country dances, arranged for string quartet

Samuel Coleridge Taylor Fantasy Pieces

Florence Price American Folksongs in Counterpoint (selections)

***Arrangements of Negro Spirituals:

Alvin Singleton Somehow We Can

Coleridge Taylor Perkinson Calvary

Ysaye Barnwell Go Down Moses

Alfred Pochon Deep River

Frederick Tillis Nobody Knows the Trouble I see

William Banfield Let us Break Bread Together

Mark O'Connor Deep River

***More composers on commission for MASQ Negro Spiritual Renaissance Project

Dvorak "American" String Quartet- "With a pre-concert discussion of the REAL name of this piece"; if desired

PROGRAM 2: String Quartets and the Lied (a dedication to Marian Anderson)

other pieces available to fit into this theme as well.

Haydn String Quartet Op 103 Der Greis: Hin ist alle meine Kraft!

Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson String Quartet #1 (Calvary)

Turina Oracion del Torerro

Schubert String Quartet #14 in d minor (Death and the Maiden)Andante con moto

Mendelssohn String Quartet #2 in a minor op 13 "ist es wahr"

Ending Select Spirituals from the MASQ Negro Spiritual Renaissance Project

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Frederick Tillis Nobody Knows the Trouble I see

William Banfield Let us Break Bread Together

Mark O'Connor Deep River

Contact Us:

If you are interested in this project and would like to discuss project details, please contact, the second violinist of the Marian Anderson String Quartet, Nicole Cherry via e-mail at masqmusic@yahoo.com, or by phone at 979-246-2162.

You may also mail correspondence to the Marian Anderson String Quartet at: The MASQ SONGS OF THE MIDDLE PASSAGE PO Box 6237 Bryan, Texas 77802-6237