

invert

workshops and master classes

Invert's unconventional approach to chamber string performance challenges the repertoire and revises the structure of traditional string quartets. Since its inception in 1999, the group has created its own brand of chamber music by blending numerous genres into its compositions and performance style. Drawn from diverse, eclectic musical backgrounds, Invert's members defy classical tradition by being firmly rooted in rock and jazz rather than the classical upbringings typical of most string players. Since Invert made its debut live performance in August 1999, the group has remained active writing and recording original material and performing in New York City venues such as The Knitting Factory, Joe's Pub, and The Kitchen.

Invert is available for workshops and presentations geared to students of all levels. They convey their unique approach to performance, composition, and improvisation in highly interactive master classes that leave students inspired to explore and stretch the boundaries of string music.

Generally, string players who are brought up with traditional curricula do not get to experience the energy and direct expression that comes from channeling their immediate impulses to their instruments' voices. Invert's extensive experience with improvisation and collaborative composition helps them guide students in exploring these channels. This can have a profound impact on students as they play "off the page" for the first time.

The diverse and cross-genre influences of Invert's members are incorporated into developing new directions in chamber music. In workshops, Invert introduces students to alternative ways of composing and collaborating -- incorporating the influences of rock, world music, and jazz among others.

Featured workshop modules include:

Improvisation - from blues to jazz to free-form group "spontaneous composition"

Application of Modes - use of scales from around the world as melodic building blocks

Rock Influences - applying popular music forms to chamber music through the use of basic harmonies, verse/chorus structures, and the importance of "groove"

Minimalism - the use of repeating loops, ostinatos, layering, expansion and contraction of time, and gradual developments

World Rhythms - applying ancient to modern rhythms (from West African, Afro-Cuban, East European, and Middle Eastern traditions) to string instruments

Invert works closely with presenters to tailor programs and workshops to the interests and levels of experience of each audience.

"This is not your standard string quartet by any stretch of the imagination. The music that Invert plays is not like anything you've ever heard. They bring a very exciting blend of improvisation and original compositions. Their improvisation master classes were very exciting and our students got quite a bit out of it."

- Albert Glinsky, Ph.D. Director of Visiting Artist Series, Mercyhurst College, Erie, PA

"Percussive rhythmic patterns and a wild mix of musical influences drive the music of Invert."

- Vanity Fair

"What Invert aims to show is that string instruments can also be built for rockish speed."

- Time Out New York

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