

# STRING PROJECT | LOS ANGELES

Robert Anderson | Jacob Szekely, Artistic Directors

## Programs

*Please note that each of these programs are ones that have already been designed and presented by SPLA. These classes and their accompanying materials are flexible enough to accommodate a diverse range of participants; we work with all our host/sponsors to customize each event to fit their unique needs.*

### **Bach the Improviser**

This workshop will help students begin to make connections between the music of Bach and the popular styles of today. Students often lose sight of the fact that Bach was a great improviser; indeed, many of his compositions could be considered written-out improvisations! The workshop will teach the student ways to apply Bach's compositional techniques creatively.

Participants will improvise a solo based on chord structure and voice leading principles in the style of J.S. Bach. Understanding Bach's music from an improvisational perspective will strengthen memorization skills while allowing the student to make more informed choices in their own interpretations!

### **Studio Musicianship**

In this seminar, we'll explore what makes session playing such a specialized art form. Topics covered include sight reading tips, playing to a click, intonation, and more. Experience what a typical day in the studio might be like.

### **Hip-Hop & Strings**

Learn about some of the history and musical elements of hip-hop music. What's it like to jam with a DJ? Participants will create samples, work on their groove, and learn techniques for creating their own hip hop songs.

### **Amplification**

We're often asked by colleagues and students about the best ways to go electric. It takes discipline and experience to achieve a pleasing electric tone that sounds good with a band. Learn about the basic options available to amplify your instrument. Get hands-on experience with preamps, e.q., and effects.

### **Musical Form and Structure**

You don't have to be Mozart to compose a sonata! An understanding of musical form and structure is not only helpful for improvisation, it is also important for interpretation of the classical repertoire. Students will expand their ability to memorize music and deepen their understanding of **any** composition. Groove with us while learning about musical form in an exciting new way!!

## **Led Zeppelin & Strings**

Explore the music of Rock's greatest band. Study rock guitar techniques, blues vocabulary, and analysis of Jimmy Page's guitar solos. Gain valuable tools and insight into the expression and music of these great artists. The seminar also touches on amplification techniques and introduces the effects that helped shape the hard rock sound of the 1970s. The class culminates with a student performance of the band's classic single Heartbreaker.

## **Jimi Hendrix & Strings**

Jimi Hendrix and his music continue to inspire and touch people everywhere and we don't just mean guitar players. Explore ways to apply the blues/rock language to bowed stringed instruments. In addition to an exploration of Hendrix's musical voice, the workshop is an opportunity for string players to learn about and try the electronic effects that he used in a beautifully expressive way.

## **Miles Davis & Strings**

Focus on the modal jazz made famous on Davis's legendary jazz album Kind of Blue. Discuss accompaniment techniques, improvisation, and phrasing in this style, which continues to be influential in popular music from hip-hop to electronica. Develop a creative voice improvising a jazz solo. Topics of discussion will include: 1) Developing a swing feel 2) Voice leading and modal harmony 3) Song form 4) Improvisation over chord changes using note choices and simple motivic development.

## **Introduction to Latin Jazz**

The workshop, based around *bossa nova* composition Little Sunflower by jazz great Freddy Hubbard, exposes students to many of the characteristics of Latin jazz performance. We discuss accompaniment techniques, improvisation, and phrasing. Every student has several chances to improvise a jazz solo. Topics of discussion include: 1) Rhythmic characteristics of Bossa Nova music (including clave rhythms) 2) Creative ways to create these rhythms on string instruments 3) Song form 4) Improvisation over chord changes using appropriate note choices and simple motivic development.

## **Violin Hero**

Violin Hero is an introduction to some of the greatest rock licks of all time. The class features hand picked riffs from some of the greatest guitar songs of all time, Learn to play excerpts from Chuck Berry, Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Lynyrd Skynyrd, AC/DC, Guns N Roses, Jimi Hendrix and others.

The class also features a substantive learning component with each riff worksheet discussing the theoretical and stylistic foundation of the piece. Students have a great time while gaining insights into the music and building their improvisational skills.