

Close-In Ranch Land is
Still Available
Still Affordable
Still Beautiful

[Click Here](#)
SPEAR'S RANCH
ON SALADO CREEK

Austin American-Statesman
statesman.com

 **PRINT THIS**

 [Click to Print](#)

[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

UT to stage dazzling digital show

Transmission of string quartet performance will show off Internet2's entertainment value

By Jeanne Claire van Ryzin and Kirk Ladendorf
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF
Monday, September 27, 2004

As they watch the Miro Quartet perform the spirited "Italian Serenade" of Hugo Wolf on Tuesday night at the University of Texas, some in the audience of 300 at McCullough Hall might almost wonder: Is it live, or is it Internet2?

The musicians actually will play in Bates Recital Hall in a different building. Their performance will be transmitted about 150 yards to McCullough over Internet2, which sends data about 50 times faster than the average cable Internet connection.

Using high-definition video and 16 audio channels, the transmission will be so good that the audience should barely know it's not in the same room as the quartet, said Jim Kerkhoff, associate dean for information technology at UT's College of Fine Arts.

The quartet will play a second time after listeners in McCullough and Bates swap places. Both crowds will be asked to evaluate their experiences.

It's "a serious experiment to test public reaction to some of the possibilities of Internet2," UT President Larry Faulkner said.

The show, not open to the public, is part of a UT conference today through Thursday for members of the Internet2 consortium, a group of universities, businesses and government agencies formed in 1996 to develop and deploy advanced Internet technologies.

Internet2, which is carried on fiber-optic cable, already connects more than 200 colleges and universities, where its high-volume capability is useful for sharing information and conducting experiments.

To test some of the new Internet technologies and their implications for the arts, the Internet2 Board of Trustees, whose current leader is Faulkner, decided it was time to test-drive a new system for high-quality digital recording and transmission of live events.

"This is an opportunity to think anew about how top-level artistic performances are made available or how master classes for students are organized and delivered, even across the country or around the world,"

**Get
To
Work!**

Faulkner said.

"The goal is to present the audience with an immersive experience, both visually and aurally," Kerkhoff said. "It's possible that this is something close enough to the real thing that it could be used as a venue in and of itself."

Indeed, the possibilities offered by such mixed reality technologies could have some very practical -- and immediate -- applications for UT.

Come fall 2008, the 3,000-seat Bass Concert Hall will be closed for 16 months for renovations. "Bass is a big performance space for a major university to have out of circulation," Kerkhoff said. "Internet2 might offer a way around it."

Chris Kyriakakis, director of the Immersive Audio Laboratory at the University of Southern California, is spearheading the logistics of Tuesday's performance. He was scheduled to work with five graduate students through the weekend to wire both halls.

The audio stream goes through a specialized processing unit devised by Kyriakakis to simulate the pattern of direct and reflected sound found in a large concert hall. Twenty-two specially arranged loudspeakers will help re-create the richness of the sound delivered by the Miro Quartet, UT's resident chamber group.

Two years ago, Kyriakakis arranged a cross-country transmission of a symphony performance from Miami to an Internet2 meeting in Los Angeles. Though the concert was recorded, it was re-created so vividly, he said, that the audience thought it was live. The Austin demonstration is the first to involve two audiences comparing live and transmitted performances.

For a few hundred thousand dollars, any school or community could buy the speakers, projectors and sound- and video-processing equipment needed to put on a digital show like the one set Tuesday at UT.

"It's not cheap, but it would be much less expensive than building a concert hall," Kyriakakis said.

Kerkhoff said Internet2 performance events someday might attract new audiences to the fine arts.

"For a generation who has spent a lot of time in movie theaters and not necessarily at live arts performances, this might be a very comfortable, familiar setting for them," he said. "It might actually increase people's interest in the arts."

That's what interests the Miro Quartet.


Cellist Josh Gindele said he didn't think of high-quality transmission as something that would replace live performance, but rather something that could spread it farther.

"Like all musicians, we feed off the energy we get from a live audience," he said. "But if we can actually accommodate more people or attract new people to classical performances -- virtually take our concerts farther -- then this opens up a whole lot of terrific possibilities for us."

jvanryzin@statesman.com; 445-3699

Find this article at:

http://www.statesman.com/metrostate/content/auto/epaper/editions/monday/news_1475ab3bc097f0f10079.html

 [Click to Print](#)

[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

