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Miguel Atwood Ferguson: A Different Grand Performance

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His stage name should be Gnash Bridges. Because he brings together genres seamlessly with his viola from hip-hop to classical and will have you gnashing or gritting your teeth with his, ahem, mad orchestral skills. This Friday night shouldn't be any different for string man at-large [Miguel Atwood Ferguson](#) as part of Quartetto Fantastico, which will link up with another foursome, Chez Quartette on the back end.



Having stirred the air last summer at [Grand Performances](#), much like a prowling MC might or an underground Quincy Jones, he will again return but making yet another, more interesting turn on his journey. After listening to a [recording of last year's amazing performance](#), one wonders, "Why switch it up man?" But the truth is, I've never seen him give the same performance twice, and that's with having watched four different performances in a year. Not including a recent one with a legion of hip hop and jazz greats in Harlem's Annunciation Park a month ago.

And for you to then realize that on the journey, this funky yet entrancing string arrangement by his bandmate Chris Woods in this [Quartetto Fantastico](#) is actually the theme song to the David Hasselhoff TV show "Knight Rider," well you gotta get in and see where this is going.

Gaining fame in certain circles with his ["Suite for Ma Dukes,"](#) the 40-piece orchestral tribute to hip-hop beatmaster J Dilla from LA's [Mochilla Productions](#), he will take those fans, as well as the jazz heads who like him, into another land with that quartet (and later an Octect by joining forces with partner in crime [Geoff "Double G" Gallegos](#) and his quartet this same night). And this time, the umpteen vocalists he's worked with -- from John Legend, Erykah Badu to Britain's Susan Boyle to Wyclef and Rihanna -- won't be in the spotlight. Just a man, some friends, and strings under a moonlit sky in downtown LA. Ploink, ka-ploink, ka-ploink.

Quartetto Fantastico and Chez Quartette at Grand Performances, Friday August 5 8pm at California Plaza Ampitheater (350 S. Grand between 3rd and 4th St). Admission is FREE!

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