



THE DEBUSSY TRIO

(De-bu-cee)

TEACHER AND PREVIEW MATERIAL

INTRODUCTION

The Debussy Trio is a chamber music group comprised of Flute, Viola and Harp. The concert that we present is an interactive musical event. These materials are a guideline designed to help you prepare your class for our video. A little preparation will make the show more enjoyable for everyone. If you already know a lot about music, please use this packet as a starting place. If you are not comfortable teaching music, the projects herein will help you!

CONCERT PROGRAM: ENJOYING THE MUSIC

Our main objective is to educate in an entertaining manner. Adults are often skeptical whether “kids today” can relate to classical music. Children definitely relate to classical music if it is presented to them in an enjoyable way. Our experience and success prove this to be true. This presentation will open their eyes and ears to new possibilities.

OBJECTIVES

- To introduce classical music to the children and explore how it can relate to their current social studies (reading/writing assignments)
- To encourage active listening and questioning
- To stimulate interest and curiosity
- To demonstrate and relate to an historical overview of chamber music for and through flute, viola and harp
- To inspire individual thought and imagination
- To cover topics from the very basics to the more advanced concepts of music
- To teach appreciation of the differences and similarities of diverse musical styles
- To encourage pre- and post-concert research of related materials in the library and on the Internet



HOW YOU CAN PREPARE YOUR STUDENTS

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO IS TO BELIEVE THAT YOUR STUDENTS WILL ENJOY A PROGRAM OF CLASSICAL MUSIC. YOUR ENTHUSIASM IS ESSENTIAL!

PROJECT IDEA

Bring varying music styles into your class by playing music for your students. It does not matter what genre they are, but preferably one should be classical. Play music and have the students draw a picture or write a paragraph that expresses how they feel about the music or what they think the music is trying to express.

Then let the students discuss their drawings/paragraphs. Was there an overall impression of the music or did the reactions vary greatly? What was characteristic of the music that implied each expression? (Such as the speed or volume of the music or its instrumentation or an obvious historical period.)

Do the project a second time. How do the second set of pictures vary from the first? Did the discussion effect change? Determine a conclusion, such as:

- When music is loud (soft), the pictures....
- This is a popular song from the sixties, so....
- There is a driving beat to this piece that makes your heart race, and the pictures....
- This piece makes me think of....

After your students have completed their project tell them why you chose the pieces of music that you played. Do you have a personal experience that you can share?



STARTING WITH THE BASICS: QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

The following questions are a good way to test the basic knowledge of your students and to approach the topic of music. These questions should be asked and discussed orally or in written form as appropriate to the age of the student.

1. What are the four families of instruments in the orchestra?
2. Name the instruments in each family.
3. How do acoustic instruments make their sound?
4. Do musicians have to practice every day?
5. What does the person standing and waving his arms in front of the orchestra do?
6. At what point in time did composers stop writing classical music?
7. Is all classical music slow?
8. What is chamber music and how is it different from orchestral music?
From rock music?
9. Where, besides a concert hall, might you hear classical music?

THE ANSWERS

1. They are the String, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion families.
2. In the String family the instruments are: Violin, Viola, Cello and Bass.
In the Woodwind family the instruments are: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet and Bassoon and Saxophone.
In the Percussion family the instruments include: Tympani, Xylophone, Cymbals, Triangle, Gong, Bass Drum, Snare Drum and many more.
In the Brass family the instruments are: Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn and Tuba.

The orchestra often includes the Harp and Piano, which are often included in the Percussion family.

3. The bodies or tubes of each of the above instruments act like an amplifier. When you either blow into the instrument or draw a bow across it or hit it with a stick a series of sound waves is set in motion. When the sound waves bounce around the inside of the instrument the sound is amplified and sent back out to the listener's ears.



4. Yes. Especially when you first begin to learn how to play. Playing an instrument is very similar to playing a sport. You have to stretch and train muscles. If you skip a day or more your muscles have to be retrained all over again. As players get more advanced they may take a day off now and again.
5. That person is called the Conductor. The conductor's job is to keep all of the musicians together and also to direct any interpretation or musical idea.
6. Composers are still writing classical music. Some people think that classical music stopped being created after Mozart and Beethoven died. But even though the sounds in classical music have changed over the last few hundred years, classical music is still written and played all over the world.
7. No. Not all classical music is slow. It comes in all speeds or tempos, just like any kind of music.
8. Chamber music is another form of classical music. It usually involves a small group of people, from 2-10 people, whereas an orchestra may include as many as 110 players. Both of these groups differ from rock groups in that most, if not all of the instruments are acoustic and not electric. Even though chamber music is most often associated with classical music a rock group works the same way a chamber group does.
9. Most people are not aware that they are surrounded by classical settings in many situations. You very often hear classical music in the movies, television and video games underscoring the action. Many times when companies put you on hold on the telephone they play classical music to soothe you while you wait. And you often hear classical music at restaurants and department stores to put you in a good consumer's mood.

DID YOU KNOW....

That children who are musically educated perform better in all of their academic classes and score higher on tests than children with no musical training? It's true.



PROJECT IDEA

Following are some broad concept headings that are aimed to opening up interesting discussions, thoughts, or writings. Try giving a child (or a small group) a single topic to research and talk or write about. Have the child (or group) then present the conclusions to the rest of the class and allow them to discuss their own ideas about the subject. This list is just a beginning. You will probably want to add to it with your own topics.

1. What is "Contemporary"
2. Abstract
3. Woodstock
4. Impressionism
5. The Beatles
6. Mozart
7. War and art
8. What is music

A FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONCERT VIDEO

Please continue to encourage your students to listen to different kinds of music. Try playing music in the classroom.

PROJECT IDEA

Tell your students to list the call letters of the music radio stations that they could find on the FM dial and indicate what kind of music each one played. They may be surprised at how many choices they have.

OR

Have your students listen to a radio station or streaming service that they would not normally listen to, for one hour. Ask them to write a short essay about what they liked or disliked about the music they listened to.



WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS

We hope that you enjoyed our concert and that this packet was helpful to you in preparing your students for the experience. You may know of a student that would like to pursue music but does not know where to turn. The members of The Debussy Trio enjoy hearing from the class. You may reach us by writing to:

The Debussy Trio Music Foundation
PO Box 492225
Los Angeles, California 90049

And we would like to hear from you too. Tell us what you think. Your comments and suggestions are a big help. Thank you!

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