

MUSIC MAKING TIMES FOUR

featuring the

Cecilia String Quartet



Min-Jeong Koh & Sarah Nematallah, violins

Caitlin Boyle, viola

Rachel Desoer, cello

Meet the Cecilia String Quartet

Praised for their 'extraordinary commitment and maturity' (Montreal Gazette) and 'talent, passion and mastery' (Jacques Robert, JR Multimedia), the Cecilia String Quartet was one of Canada's most exciting young ensembles. Since their formation in 2004, they were the recipients of many prestigious awards, including first prize at the 2010 Banff International String Quartet Competition., and were the Ensemble-in-Residence at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music.

Visit www.ceciliastringquartet.com to read up on all things Cecilia!

Learn about the String Quartet!

*How many people are in a string quartet?
What instruments are in a string quartet?*



Unlike an orchestra, the string quartet has no conductor to lead them. They play together by communicating with their eyes, ears, and bodies...

The string quartet, a **chamber music** ensemble, is one of the most important genres in classical music. Since the late 18th century many of history's most important composers have written string quartets, with the body of repertoire numbering in the hundreds.

Explore what chamber music is, what is special about it:

- why is it called chamber music?
- where is it played/sung?
- what is unique about chamber music? The string quartet?
- who are some famous chamber musicians today?

Who wrote a lot of music for string quartet?

Joseph
Haydn



Wolfgang
Amadeus
Mozart



Ludwig
van Beethoven

Dmitri
Shostakovich



Bela Bartok

COMPOSE YOUR OWN PIECE!

Think about how would you make music/have a musical conversation in groups of four without any conductor or recorded accompaniment.

- How do folk and rock groups do it?
- How would you make decisions about what voices/instruments to include?
- What would you need to decide together?

Gather one or more people and use body music, vocal sounds, and/or “found” sounds to make a musical conversation that expresses/reflects a chosen emotion (e.g., happiness, sadness, anger), a season of the year, a favourite animal, etc. Focus on listening to each other and being inspired by each other.

Work together to experiment with sounds and play with ideas before making final decisions. Things to think about:

- How fast do we want it to be?
- What dynamics (how loud or soft)?
- How do we start and stop together?
- Are there special points that we want to emphasize?

Record your composition!



LISTENING



A string quartet can make many different types of sounds, each evoking a different mood or character.

Look up recordings of the Cecilia String Quartet from YouTube, listen to the media files from the Debut Atlantic website, or retrieve sound files on iTunes from one of the pieces listed below. Close your eyes and listen actively with your imagination.

a) Describe characteristics of the music (was it loud? soft? fast? slow?).

b) Describe the mood/character of what you listened to (was it happy? sad? scary? angry?).

c) Imagine if this was music for a movie—what would be happening in the movie?

d) How does listening to string music make you feel? Describe the particular sounds that stringed instruments make.

Here are some suggestions of excerpts from string quartets

These excerpts feature a wide variety of sounds and characters. Listen to two selections, or if you don't have access to internet, listen to music on a CD or CBC Music.

Bela Bartok, String Quartet No.2, 2nd Movement (Allegro molto capriccioso)

Ludwig van Beethoven, Quartet Op.59 No.3, 2nd Movement (Andante con moto quasi Allegretto)

George Crumb, Black Angels, Part 1, Threnody 1 (Night of the Electric Insects)

Claude Debussy, Quartet in G Minor, 2nd Movement (Assez vif et bien rythmé)

Joseph Haydn, String Quartet Op.77 No.1, 3rd Movement (Menuetto: Presto)

Felix Mendelssohn, Quartet Op.44 No.2, 2nd Movement (Scherzo: Allegro di molto)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, String Quartet KV.156, 1st Movement (Presto)

Robert Schumann, Quartet Op.41 No.1, 2nd Movement (Scherzo-Intermezzo)

Dmitri Shostakovich, Quartet No.10, 2nd Movement (Allegretto furioso)

DRAW A PICTURE

On a separate sheet of paper, draw a picture of the two pieces you listened to. In your picture, show how the pieces were different.

BONUS: Draw the instruments of the string quartet and include them in the picture!

String Quartet Crossword

Q	U	A	R	T	E	T	M	R	N	O	Y	M	S	J
C	T	K	E	N	M	O	V	E	M	E	N	T	F	A
H	S	W	O	B	U	R	S	X	O	P	R	N	N	U
F	A	U	T	F	B	N	F	C	O	I	A	E	F	R
N	O	Y	B	V	I	O	L	I	N	B	B	G	I	L
V	S	L	D	Q	F	H	M	G	W	E	R	M	N	G
D	G	U	J	N	O	B	S	I	N	I	A	H	A	E
C	P	C	R	T	G	I	V	L	P	B	V	L	L	S
E	M	A	C	O	N	C	E	R	T	E	O	S	E	H
L	H	K	S	B	C	P	Q	U	A	I	L	D	A	T
L	W	D	I	V	D	L	P	D	V	O	H	N	Q	M
O	G	B	E	E	T	H	O	V	E	N	Z	C	V	I

Beethoven

Bravo

Bows

Cello

Concert

Finale

Haydn

Movement

Quartet

Strings

Viola

Violin