DELPHIA CELLO QUARTET

CURRICULUM
WELCOME TO CLASS NOTES ARTISTS!

We are so excited to bring live music into your school—thanks for hosting a concert. This curriculum includes:

• Learning prompts for before, during, and after the concert experience
• Standards-based, K-6 lesson plans based on themes and ideas from your Class Notes Artists concert

Everything is designed to help you and your students get the most out of the experience. Please share your experience with us!

Katie Condon, Education Specialist, Classical MPR, kcondon@mpr.org

BEFORE THE CONCERT

LEARN WHAT YOU WILL HEAR

• “Let Go” by Frou Frou, arranged for four cellos by A. Burgdorf
• “Alejandro” by Lady Gaga, arranged by J. Floberg, played by the Delphia Cello Quartet
• “Eleanor Rigby” by the Beatles, arranged by J. Floberg
• Concerto for Two Cellos in g minor by Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741), arranged by the Delphia Cello Quartet
• “Libertango” by Astor Piazzolla, arranged by N. Halsey
Rachelle Lanae Smith earned her B.A. in Music from the University of Minnesota. Rachelle is an active performer around the Twin Cities, both as a cellist and as lead singer of Tacky Annie. She teaches at St. Joseph’s School of Music and Twin Town Guitars. Rachelle is convinced that it is impossible to be sad while playing the ukulele.

Rosa Thompson-Vieira, a native of Minneapolis, earned her performance degree from the University of Minnesota. She plays with the Rochester Symphony and the Minnesota Opera, and she is the cellist for Roma Duo. She teaches at Yinghua Academy and Sarah Jane’s Music School. When not playing cello, she enjoys going to amusement parks with her nephew and playing with her cat Iggy, named after the composer Igor Stravinsky.

Katherine Canon is a cello teacher and performer with a B.A. in Music and Spanish from St. Olaf College. She teaches individual and group cello lessons through her own studio and MacPhail Center for Music, and she plays in the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and the band Fox & Coyote. In addition to music, Katherine likes to fill her life with delicious food, good books and plenty of outdoor adventures.

Julia Floberg was born and raised in Minneapolis. She studied at Dartmouth College and Boston University. She plays with several local groups and singer-songwriters, subs with the Duluth Symphony and LaCrosse Symphony, and teaches guitar, mandolin and ukulele at Twin Town Guitars. She loves to travel but she has learned firsthand that Dorothy was right: there is no place like home.
All four musicians in the Delphia Cello Quartet play the same instrument—the cello!

The cello is a member of the string family. When a cellist plucks a string or pulls a bow across a string, the string vibrates and a sound is produced.

Cellists use their fingers to shorten or lengthen the string, which makes the pitches or notes go higher and lower. It has the same shape as the violin and viola, but it is too big to hold under your chin, so the player must rest it on the floor on an end pin.

Like other string instruments, a cello uses a bow. The white stuff on the bow is horsehair. Horsehair is more coarse than human hair, and the tiny, jagged edges pull the cello string to get a better vibration. Cellists put rosin on their bows to make the horsehair stickier. When a cellist plucks a string instead of using the bow, we call it pizzicato.

Since the cello is bigger than the violin and the viola, it can make lower sounds. It is smaller—and sounds less low—than another string instrument, the double bass.
LISTEN TO AND WATCH MUSIC FOR STRING INSTRUMENTS

- *Sonata No. 1, First Movement* by composer György Ligeti
- Cello duo 2Cellos plays an arrangement of “Perfect” by Ed Sheeran
- The Prague Cello Quartet plays music from Lloyd Webber’s *The Phantom of the Opera*
- A cello group called the Portland Cello Project plays some Kanye West in a forest. (Be on the lookout for a few brass instruments, too.)
- Pieces played by the Delphia Cello Quartet:
  - An arrangement of “Chandelier” by Sia
  - An arrangement of “Danny Boy” that includes some singing
  - Delphia Cello Quartet playlist

DISCUSS IN CLASS

- How can we use our bodies to listen?
- How can we show respect to performers and other audience members?
- What does it mean to be an *audience*?
- Watch a video about concert etiquette.

DURING THE CONCERT

- NOTICE
  - The way the four musicians in the quartet work together. Sometimes one instrument plays a melody and the other instruments add sounds to go along with it. Sometimes one instrument plays a musical idea and another instrument answers—almost like a conversation.
- WONDER
  - How often do these musicians practice?
  - How did they get their start?
- THINK ABOUT
  - How each instrument makes its sound.
  - The different kinds of sounds the cello can make.
  - The feelings or images that pop into your mind as you listen. Do you think the composers wanted to make you feel a certain way with his or her music?
- IMAGINE
  - You are a composer. What sounds would you want the cello to make?
AFTER THE CONCERT

• DISCUSS
  › Your favorite piece of music from the concert. What did you like best, and why?

• TELL SOMEONE AT HOME
  › Two things you heard or saw or learned at your Class Notes Artist concert.

• DESCRIBE
  › How the music made you feel. Maybe different pieces of music made you feel different feelings.

• REMEMBER
  › How the cello made its sound. Can you explain how its sound is produced? How many different kinds of sound did it make?
  › What does the bow do? What is the bow made out of?

• CONNECT
  › Something from the Class Notes Artists concert to something you’ve learned in school. Explain the connection to a partner, a teacher, or someone at home.