

Inside the Music: A Midsummer Night's Dream Teacher's Resources

Part 5: Mindfulness & Active Listening

Overview

- This section is all about structured listening - there are many cross-curricular applications to this idea!
- Your students will explore active listening by creating a visual interpretation of the Nocturne from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

Before you start

- Ensure pupils have access to some paper, and things to draw with.
- You could discuss mindfulness with the children, and practise a meditation or breathing exercise.

TIP: This could also be extended with paint or clay to link with your art sessions.

Exercise length: 10 minutes

Activity set-up: individual work

Materials required: paper, pens / pencils / crayons / additional art materials (optional)

Musical learning: active listening; using descriptive language about music

During the Exercise

- Encourage the pupils to think of different ways to make marks, how could the different sounds be shown?
- You might like to point out different elements of the music yourself, providing prompts to keep the students on track, e.g. "I think the music is getting louder here", or "Can you hear pizzicato in the cellos?"
- If needed, feel free to play the video again to allow more time drawing.

Finishing the Session

- Encourage the pupils to share their artworks, and ask what inspired them and how the different parts of their art link to elements of the music.
- Encourage use of musical language where appropriate!

Extension Exercises

- The artworks could be used as a basis for creative writing: create a story or a poem based on your scene - remember, it doesn't have to be a picture, so you can be really imaginative!
- Choose a contrasting classical work such as Stravinsky's 'The Rite of Spring', or Hannah Kendall's 'The Spark Catchers'. How might the markings differ for that?
- Lead this exercise multiple times with different pieces, then display your works and invite other students to guess which artwork represented which piece. Which visual clues give it away?

Don't forget!

You can share your poems and performances with us by sending them through to info@asmf.org, using 'Inside the Music' as the subject!