

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

Introduction

Welcome to Inside the Music: A Midsummer Night's Dream resources with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields. These resources are for Key Stage 2, although there are some parts (with adaptation) that would suit Key Stage 1 too.

These resources take inspiration from the Academy of St Martin in the Fields' recording of Mendelssohn's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The film is called A London Dream, and can be watched on our website alongside delving into the music - you might like to play your students sections of the film, or the whole film!

There are 8 parts to this series - each part contains a video for use in your classroom, and an accompanying teacher resource, giving you some tips as to how to get the most out of the videos.

How to use the resources

- These resources are designed to be used flexibly: tailor the resource around your own comfortability and needs. You can dip into the exercises, stretch this into a project over a half-term, a term, or make it last even longer by extending the exercises with our suggestions.
- Each resource has a before, during and finishing section, plus extension exercises if you'd like to try them. At its very simplest, just put the video on, provide the resources and your class will get inside the music!
- Lengths of exercises are a guide only - you will know best what will be most suitable for your class.
- The resources link across the whole curriculum, and can be used to integrate with other topics you are studying: the teacher resources give some clues as to where and how you can do that, but make it go as far as you can!
- Try to encourage the use of musical terminology as much as possible: check out the Model Music Curriculum for a guide on musical language for KS2.
- When doing soundscape or composition exercises, feel free to tailor them to your students as needed: you might like to encourage more improvisation, or introduce composing with pitches or using techniques such as drones, in line with what else you've been studying.

We'd love to see your class's responses to these videos. Send them through to info@asmf.org with the subject 'Inside the Music' - we may even feature them on our website!

Additional Resources

[BBC Teach Resources: A Midsummer Night's Dream \(KS2/KS3\) Resources](#)

[NPR: Marin Alsop's Guide To Mendelssohn's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'](#)

Acknowledgements

Presenter: Rosie Bergonzi

Musicians: Rachel Ingleton (Oboe), Catherine Morgan (Violin), Isaac Shieh (Horn), Juliet Welchman (Cello)

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Summary of Parts

Part 1: Mendelssohn and The Music

- This section introduces the composer Felix Mendelssohn, and his link to William Shakespeare's work A Midsummer Night's Dream.
- Your students will learn a body percussion exercise, then play it one after another, using the skills of focusing and listening.

Part 2: Instrumental Introductions

- This section is all about the individual musicians of the orchestra. It could be a great moment to open discussion about instruments the class already knows, or may play themselves.

Part 3: Playing as an Ensemble

- This section is all about ensemble playing – or playing together as an orchestra
- Your students will learn about the role of a conductor, and what it means when orchestras play without one – this is known as a chamber orchestra
- Your students will explore the musicianship skills required when playing without a conductor

Part 4: Sounds & Environments

- This section is about how music reflects to places and environments
- Your students will build a soundscape based on an environment they know

Part 5: Mindfulness & Active Listening

- 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

Part 6: Music for Occasions

- This section is all about situations where music is used; particularly special occasions and celebrations
- Your students will consider where they encounter music in their lives
- Your students will describe a series of contrasting excerpts of music

Part 7: Music and Words

- This section is all about linking music and words, this could have a link with English literature and whatever poetry you're studying.
- Your students will write a poem and then set it to music, over an ostinato

Part 8: Composing with Scores

- This section brings together all that a composer does – you're a composer too!
- Throughout the videos we have been exploring how Mendelssohn and our musicians do they do what they do, but its important to remember we're can all be musicians and composers.
- Your students will create a graphic score, and then interpret it, turning it into their own piece of music