

INFINITUS

TEACHER'S STUDY GUIDE

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE



Infinitus consists of three award-winning musicians from Canada and the United States. Rather than emphasize various composers, technique, or the music of different eras, Infinitus stresses listening skills: the identical but distinct parts of a *canon*, the differences yet similarity in the movements of a *theme and variations*, the imagery and mood of a *Scottish lament*. In this way, the performance is geared toward enhancing cognitive skills and musical appreciation for a general audience.

Program length: 45 minutes.

ABOUT THE GENRE

Chamber music is a form of classical music, written for a small group of instruments which traditionally could be accommodated in a palace chamber. Most broadly, it includes any art music that is performed by a small number of performers with one performer to a part. The word "chamber" signifies that the music can be performed in a small room, often in a private salon with an intimate atmosphere.

THE PROGRAM

The program for the school show will vary depending on the age and sophistication of the audience. Elementary schools can expect more participation and generally shorter pieces than high schools who can anticipate transcriptions of pieces that are currently on the radio. Always popular with young audiences are various 'novelty pieces' such as *The Theme from 'The Simpsons'* or the *Hockey Night in Canada* theme music. These sorts of pieces may show up in the performance at any time. Below are some of the pieces that may be heard in the show. Please feel free to make requests as the group has an extensive repertoire.

Mozart: Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Mendes: Berimbau

Deep Purple: Smoke on the Water

Pachelbel: Canon

Infinitus: Storytelling

Kondo: Super Mario Brothers

Rossini: William Tell Overture

Elfman: The Simpsons Theme

THEMES:

- Canon
- Cognition
- Cooperation
- Individuality
- Mozart
- Practice
- Skill
- Technique
- Theme
- Variation



K-7 PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

ENHANCE LISTENING –10 MIN **(IRP LINK: THOUGHTS FEELINGS AND IMAGES)**

Introduce the students to a few of the original versions of the Ininitus program written above (whatever is easy to access). Have them listen with their **eyes closed**. Then have them describe the thoughts, feelings, images or stories that arose while listening.

Kings and Queens or Modern times? – 10 min (IRP link: Context-Historical/Cultural)

Have the students listen a second time to the same pieces and ask them to imagine what time in history they come from. Can you imagine Kings and Queens, castles and palaces or modern times and places like we have now?

Major or Minor? 10 min (IRP link: Elements of music - expressive properties)

Explain the difference between “Major and Minor” musical terms. Have the students listen to some pieces of music in Major and Minor keys and then identify the emotional and rhythmic properties they hear.



K-7 POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES

Discussion – 10-15 min **(IRP link: Responding to music)**

NO right or wrong comments – everything is welcome.

HOSTING THE PERFORMANCE

Ininitus will arrive at your school approximately 15–30 minutes prior to the scheduled performance time. They require nothing more than three chairs with straight backs and no arms. If you have three, sturdy music stands for their use, so much the better, but they do travel with their own portable stands. The group will take questions from the students throughout the performance.

