

AFIARA STRING QUARTET

Valerie Li , violin

Yuri Cho, violin

David Samuel, viola

Adrian Fung, cello

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Amidst movies, video games, and rock concerts, the typical youth of today doesn't exactly look at a classical chamber music concert as essential entertainment. Our main goal is to reach young audiences with a variety of chamber music that we love in the hope of cultivating an interest and appreciation for this wonderful genre. Within chamber music, there's an intimacy and a power to change and improve the quality of our lives. Since the time since we formed the Afiara String Quartet, we have always held teaching and outreach as a high priority on our list of musical endeavors. For this reason, we play these educational concerts where we share our enthusiasms with all types of audiences, from local schools to centers for troubled youth.

The main point of the our quartet's presentation is not just to introduce students to the culture of the genre, the formation of two violins, viola and cello -- or what to listen for, or how things work -- but also to the idea that the string quartet is cool! The ways of communicating afforded us in music and the concept of teamwork -- maintaining individuality within a group and supporting one another while staying true to oneself -- become very clear when these points are illustrated on an aural level.

The quartet uses hip hop as an entry point with all our youth programs. More often than not, when we ask the students what their favorite music is, the answer is hip hop. We will draw a strong connection to how the string quartet's voicing, with our two violins, viola and cello, can be easily tied to any of our present-day music. We play through a variety of pieces in our repertoire, during which we introduce students to interesting techniques employed throughout our performance, and highlight the separate and interchanging roles each of us take on within the group.

With the emergence of *iPods*, *Youtube* and *MySpace*, today's young people are exposed to a wealth of different kinds of music on a day-to-day, often minute-to-minute basis. Music is cool, fresh and embodies characteristics that people can identify with. And even more so, today's youth feels music defines them. Our goal is to help put the string quartet literature into context for these students and make it accessible in this same way.

Questions:

- 1) What are the four main voices of the string quartet?
- 2) What roles does each member of the string quartet play?
 - b) Do they have specific roles?
 - c) Are these roles interchangeable?
- 3) What was your favorite type of music played at the presentation?
 - b) How is this music similar to that of your other favorite music heard on the radio?
 - c) How is it different?
- 4) Given what you heard, how is Mozart like Jay-Z?
 - b) How is it not?