

YEAR 4 WORKSHOP

'Different and the Same'

45 minutes – 60 minutes

Objective

To give the children an understanding of the differences and similarities of the string instruments on show – violin, viola and 'cello.

Quartet Performance

This gives the children the opportunity to observe and listen to the different instruments at the same time. We play a variety of pieces ranging from popular classical music to well known film and television tunes. We encourage the children to not only listen passively, but to ask themselves questions about what they are seeing and hearing.

Big and Small

Three duets between the violins, violin & viola and violin & 'cello, will consolidate big / small, high / low. Though the instruments look similar, the variation in size is very important to their pitch.

Pringlino!

Once 'big / small' is established, the *Pringlino* expands on this with 'long / short'. The *Pringlino* is a Pringles tin with a cord attached to the end. It very crudely demonstrates why the pitch of sound changes, when we put our fingers on the string. The children can also have a go and to finish, we are also able to play a fairly convincing rendition of *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* on it!

Fast – Slow / Loud - Soft

Here we use two contrasting pieces to show how tempo or pulse affects the mood of a piece. The traditional *Sailor's Hornpipe* (fast) versus the Brahms *Lullaby* (slow) are a good example of this. Also, the children are always ready to go home and practice once they are inspired by an extra fast version of *Sailor's Hornpipe*!

Interaction

The children will feel an enormous sense of achievement if they are able to play along with the quartet. Whatever stage they are at, we would be able to tailor a piece to play with them. If you would like for us to include this in your workshop, please let us know in advance.