Chamber Music Beginnings Unit 3
Teacher’s Guide

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The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Materials:

Click here to view Lesson 1: Beethoven and Melody
Click here to view Lesson 2: A Musical Conversation
Click here to view the accompanying CMS archive recording

Tara Helen O’Connor, flute
Daniel Phillips, violin
Richard O’Neill, viola

Beethoven
Serenade in D major for Flute, Violin, and Viola, Op. 25 (1801)
Entrata: Allegro

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
- Born in Bonn, Germany, into a musical family
- Ludwig received no formal education past elementary school
  and even though he had trouble with simple multiplication and
  spelling, he quickly became an accomplished composer and
  performer.
- By age 13, Beethoven had composed and published his first
  works, three piano sonatas.
- In 1798, he began to experience a loss of hearing, and
  eventually became completely deaf.
- Despite his deafness, Beethoven composed nine symphonies, five piano concertos, a violin
  concerto, a triple concerto, and an opera.
- His chamber music includes 32 piano sonatas, 16 string quartets, a string quintet, three string
  trios, eight piano trios, 10 violin sonatas, five cello sonatas, a septet for winds and strings, a
  wind octet, and many songs.
From left to right:
Daniel Phillips, violin
Tara Helen O’Connor, flute
Richard O’Neill, viola

The **violin**
- Highest voice in the string family
- It can be lyrical and expressive or brilliant and dramatic.
- The violin has four strings. The main body of the violin is hollow and usually made out of spruce and maple wood. The long, slender neck has a fingerboard made of ebony.
- To play the instrument, the violinist holds it in their left hand while placing it between their chin and shoulder. It can be bowed, plucked, and sometimes even strummed like a guitar.

The **flute**
- Highest voice in the woodwind family
- It can be lyrical, dramatic, and also mysterious
- Flute can be made of silver or even gold
- To play the instrument, the flutist presses keys with both hands while blowing across the embouchure hole

The **viola**
- Middle-register voice in the string family
- It can be lyrical and expressive or brilliant and dramatic.
- Like the violin, the viola has four strings and the violist holds it in their left hand while placing it between their chin and shoulder. It can be bowed, plucked, and sometimes even strummed like a guitar.