



Exploring Incidental Music:

Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

IRIS Quartet—High School Outreach Content Outline

Repertoire:

Mendelssohn: *Overture to A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Beethoven: *String Quartet, Op. 59 No. 3, Mvt. IV*

High school orchestra's current repertoire, (example- Mozart: *Divertimento, No. 1, Mvt. II*)

Supplies:

White Board & Markers

Group Discussion:

Discussion Topics:

- Incidental music and its function in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- Incidental music's function in cinema, theater, etc.
- Review of previous class discussions on this topic.

Performance Component:

Perform excerpt from Beethoven's String Quartet for students. Ask students to describe possible scenes appropriate if the music performed were incidental. Students should use music vocabulary to support their answers including, but not limited to, articulation, sonority, tempo, rhythmic figures, and melodic motives. Scenes can be made-up or taken from known movies or plays.

Master Class Component:

Students play a current repertoire selection. IRIS musicians ask students to describe what possible scene(s) they feel are appropriate for this musical selection. What musical elements support those opinions? IRIS musicians lead students to refine, sharpen, and enhance the students' execution of the music to exemplify the musical characteristics they described.