Teacher Guide - Activity #1, Haydn’s “Surprise Symphony”

Instructions:

- For activity #1, have students read through the history of Haydn’s “Surprise” Symphony.

- Listen to the musical example and see if students recognize the “surprise.”

- Explain to students that the “Surprise” Symphony contains a variation of the melody of Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.

- If possible, perform the Twinkle melody on piano, bell set, or recorder. Students may also sing the melody if desired.

- Listen to the “Surprise” Symphony excerpt again. Ask students if they hear the similarities and have them compare/contrast. Comment on dynamics, melody, rhythm, etc.
Teacher Guide - Activity #2, Dynamics

Instructions:

Have students answer the question, “What are dynamics?” and fill out the dynamics chart provided.

Answer Key

1. Dynamics refer to the degrees of loudness/softness in a given note or piece. In other words, dynamics refer to the volume of the music.

   a. Very Loud  
   b. Loud  
   c. Moderately Loud  
   d. Moderately soft  
   e. Soft  
   f. Very Soft  
   g. ff  
   h. f  
   i. mf  
   j. mp  
   k. p  
   l. pp
Teacher Guide - Activity #3, “Surprise” Symphony Score

Instructions:

- Have students study the score of Haydn’s “Surprise” Symphony and answer the questions provided.

Answer Key

1. p – piano (soft)
2. pp – pianissimo (very soft)
3. Bar 16
4, 5, 6. Varying answers
Activity #4, Composition

BE THE AUTHOR!

- Have students create their own stories on a separate sheet of paper
- They will later compose rhythms to accompany their stories!

BE THE COMPOSER!

- Review the composition checklist on page 7 of the student guide and see if students have any questions. Feel free to adjust the checklist and make it more or less advanced based on each individual ability level.
- If desired, create an example bar or two to get started.
- Encourage students to share their stories and perform their compositions!