

‘Chamber Music from the very beginning’ © Mary Cohen

- chamber music is quite different from
 - group playing
 - string ensemble playing
 - orchestral playing
- in chamber music a player has to develop the skill of holding an independent line at the same time as being very aware of the combined sound
- start pupil/pupil duets at the earliest possible stage – this is the most effective setting for learning about rhythm and tempo
- ‘leading in’ and ‘leading off’ should be learned from the very first lessons by all the players – at different moments, a different part may need to take on this role
- team building: all the efforts go towards the goal of the music – allowing pupils to lose themselves in unselfconscious music making
- layered individual lines opens the door to wonderful sound worlds of different styles and harmonies
- chamber music is a great way to keep pupils hooked on music-making – the social aspects can be particularly helpful during teenage years

Try introducing Chamber Music from the very first lessons

- *Superduets* offers a good set of ‘rehearsal plans’ and ‘concerts’ - these plans can be used as templates for later stages too
- at the *Quartetstart* stage, use mentoring to kick-start new groups
 - introduce extra players to mentor existing duos or trios to form quartets
 - introduce extra players to mentor existing groups to raise standards
 - allow less advanced players to sit in a more advanced group to gain experience that can be transferred to their own group
 - but always try to allow plenty of opportunities for a ‘proper’ chamber music experience with just one player per line

Repertoire

Superduets 1 violin 0-571-51889-3

Superduets 2 violin 0-571-51890-7

Superduets 1 cello 0-571-51891-5

Superduets 2 cello 0-571-51892-3

Dance duets violins 0-571-56920-X

Dance duets violas 0-571-56603-0

Dance duets cellos 0-571-56939-0

Real Repertoire duets violins 0-571-52907-0

some violin duets in *More technique takes off!* and *Jazz technique takes off!*

ABRSM Music Medals violin – 5 levels of duets, trios & quartets

Copper

Bronze

Silver

Gold

Platinum

Quartetstart 1 string quartet (violin 3 alt. to viola) 0-571-56956-0

Quartetstart 2 string quartet (violin 3 alt. to viola) 0-571-56935-8

Christmas Quartetstart string quartet (violin 3 alt. to viola) 0-571-56976-5

Winter Soundscapes string quartet (violin 3 alt. to viola) 0-571-52076-6

Mixed instrumentation



At the edge of time 0-571- 53453-8

flute, xylophone & viola



...and Janus stands in the doorway of time 0-571-53646-8

violin, cello & piano

(Written especially for a first performance at the *ESTA* Conference at Falun)