

# Cypress String Quartet

## Call & Response: Mendelssohn Bicentennial Celebration

### Discussion/Project Ideas for Educators

#### Before the concert:

1. What do you know about the musical concept of Call & Response? Where does it come from? In what different forms of music does it appear? Is it present in music only, or other types of expression as well?
2. What does it mean to “compose” music? If a choreographer uses movements to tell a story or convey an idea, what does a composer use?
3. Given what you know about the concept of Call & Response and what you’ve read about each piece and composer, can you name the two pieces the Cypress discusses as the “call(s)” and which is the “response?” Describe the relationships between:
  - a. Beethoven Quartet Op. 135 & Mendelssohn Quartet Op. 13
  - b. Beethoven Quartet Op. 135 & Kevin Puts Lento Assai
4. If you could write a response to what you heard the Cypress play of the Beethoven and the Mendelssohn quartets, what would it sound like? Using words (or images/drawings/collages), describe each of the two pieces. Then describe your musical “response,” and provide reasoning for the response you created, especially given our society and your life in today’s world.
5. What are similarities and/or differences between the characters of Beethoven and Mendelssohn as described in this packet? Given these points, was there anything surprising about Beethoven’s influence on Mendelssohn? Provide evidence for your answer.
6. Why is the world so excited about Mendelssohn’s 200<sup>th</sup> birthday? What makes him and his music so memorable? What events and changes in the world in the last 200 years might have had played a role in how popular his music may or may not have been at any given time?

#### After the concert:

1. What did you read about before the concert that you saw examples or evidence of at the Herbst Theatre? (Hint: think back to the exhibit)
2. What was your favorite piece or part of a piece of music you heard the Cypress perform at the concert? What made it your favorite? Likewise, which was your least favorite and why?
3. Would your own self composed “response” to the Beethoven and Mendelssohn quartets have sounded at all similar to or different from Kevin Puts’ Lento Assai? How so?
4. Pick one or two older pieces of artwork of any kind (ie., literature, visual art, photography, music of different sorts), and create a “response” piece of artwork that reflects your own thoughts and insights.