

Ventus Machina

Education and Engagement:

We offer a variety of outreach programming and workshop opportunities:

NB: All our programming can be done in either French or English

For younger audiences (3 to 12 years), we have a 35 to 45-minute presentation called the "Time Travel Machina", which takes our audience through the history of Western music in a funny and engaging way. This scripted show uses simple props, costumes and visual aids to bring the musical timeline to life. Audience participates throughout, and the show features a question and answer period before the final number. Ahead of our visits, we send an introduction letter and "study guide" to schools, which allows teachers to tie the performance into their regular curricular activities.

For ages 12 through adult, we present mini concerts (15-30 mins) of highlights from our feature show, often including projected images for visual interest, information about the instruments, and humorous anecdotes from our experiences as musicians and as an ensemble. We always include a question and answer session in our presentations.

We also offer sectional-style chamber music or full-band workshops to existing instrumental programs, either for schools, universities or community-based groups:

Sectional-style: band or orchestra is divided into smaller like-instrument groups to work with one of the members of *Ventus Machina* on instrument-specific topics

Chamber music: styled as an open master-class, chamber music groups are encouraged to perform for *Ventus Machina* and receive coaching on music and ensemble strategies

Full-band workshop: Experienced adjudicator and band director James Kalyn conducts a full band rehearsal with the other four members of *Ventus Machina* 'sitting in' to provide ensemble support

During our feature-length concerts, we are always striving to find new and creative ways to engage our audience, and with each new program we develop this aspect further. We use a lot of humour and address our audiences informally, and we often make a point of getting the audience to participate in some way. Each of the quintet members speaks during our shows, delivering interesting tidbits of information and interacting in their own style.

At all our performances, our members visit and interact with the audience both at intermission and after the show. We enjoy taking questions about the instruments or the group and strive to make personal connections in each of the communities we visit.

We are sure that *Ventus Machina* would be very successful making a positive impact on students and communities on behalf of Debut Atlantic.