

Lesson Plan (Piano Lesson, Age 10-16)

Lesson 1: “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy”

Objective: Explore staccato articulation and phrasing.

- **Listening Assignment:** Analyze the use of staccato and dynamics in “*Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*.”
 - **Activity:** Discuss the celesta and its unique role in the orchestra. Students can compare recordings of the piece to different instrumentations.
 - **Piano Practice:** Play simple staccato melodies, focusing on crisp articulation.
 - **Analysis:** Discuss how the lightness of the staccato creates a magical feel.
 - **Wrap-up:** Reflect on how different articulations impact the mood of the music.
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Lesson 2: “March”

Objective: Learn about march rhythms and contrasting dynamics.

- **Listening Assignment:** Analyze the structure and form of “*March*.” Students should identify where the dynamics change and why.
 - **Activity:** Play a rhythmic exercise on the piano that mimics the march rhythm in 4/4 time.
 - **Piano Practice:** Focus on contrasting forte and piano dynamics while playing C-G patterns.
 - **Analysis:** Discuss how the march creates energy and momentum in the ballet.
 - **Wrap-up:** Discuss Tchaikovsky’s use of repetition and variation in the piece.
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Lesson 3: “Waltz of the Flowers”

Objective: Understand the waltz form and 3/4 time signature.

- **Listening Assignment:** Identify the phrasing and how Tchaikovsky uses 3/4 time in “*Waltz of the Flowers*.”
- **Activity:** Have students play a simple waltz pattern (root-chord-root) in C major.
- **Piano Practice:** Play a waltz in 3/4 time, emphasizing the first beat.
- **Analysis:** Discuss how waltz music differs from other time signatures and how it affects the flow of the dance.

- **Wrap-up:** Reflect on how the waltz makes the listener feel and why it's a central theme in the ballet.
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Lesson 4: “Russian Dance (Trepak)”

Objective: Explore tempo changes and the role of accents in fast music.

- **Listening Assignment:** Listen to “*Russian Dance*” and discuss how the tempo and accents create excitement.
 - **Activity:** Perform a rhythmic clapping exercise focusing on accents.
 - **Piano Practice:** Play quick, accented passages, focusing on maintaining rhythm at higher speeds.
 - **Analysis:** Discuss how Tchaikovsky uses tempo and dynamics to build energy in this piece.
 - **Wrap-up:** Consider how speed and rhythmic variation convey different emotions in music.
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Lesson 5: “Arabian Dance”

Objective: Explore legato phrasing, slow tempos, and mood creation.

- **Listening Assignment:** Listen to “*Arabian Dance*” and discuss how the legato phrasing contributes to its exotic, mysterious atmosphere.
 - **Activity:** Work on slow, smooth legato playing, focusing on transitions between notes.
 - **Piano Practice:** Practice playing scales or simple melodies legato, focusing on creating a smooth connection between notes.
 - **Analysis:** Discuss how Tchaikovsky uses orchestration and rhythm to convey a different cultural feel.
 - **Wrap-up:** Reflect on how different tempos and articulations impact the mood and style of a piece.
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This version encourages deeper musical analysis and technique development for older students, along with a focus on how different musical elements shape the character of each piece.

LISTENING ASSIGNMENT LIST

Dance of Sugar Plum Fairy:

[Instrumental]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFjveJ5sgeQ>

[Ballet Performance]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zV1qLYukTH8>

March:

[Instrumental]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9t1AeJm7XF0>

[Ballet Performance]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfCSIE2tQco>

Waltz of Flower:

[Instrumental]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp1aDnVySf8>

[Ballet Performance]: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_NWdj8PCdYE

Russian Dance:

[Instrumental]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmQjhwsPRDE>

[Ballet Performance]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-qVbWI5TYg>