

Lesson Plan (Saxophone)

Student Age: Middle and High School Students

## Lesson 1: “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy”

**Objective:** Focus on articulation and breath control for light staccato notes.

- **Listening Assignment:** Listen to “*Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*” and identify the staccato articulation.
  - **Activity:** Practice playing staccato notes using proper embouchure and air support.
  - **Saxophone Practice:** Play a simple melody with light, detached staccato articulation.
  - **Wrap-up:** Discuss how articulation impacts the tone and mood of the piece.
- 

## Lesson 2: “March”

**Objective:** Understand march rhythms and dynamic variation.

- **Listening Assignment:** Analyze the rhythmic drive of “*March*” and identify the strong accents.
  - **Activity:** Practice a march-like rhythm, emphasizing accented beats with dynamic contrast.
  - **Saxophone Practice:** Play scales or arpeggios with forte and piano dynamics.
  - **Wrap-up:** Discuss how dynamic shifts enhance the structure and energy of the march.
- 

## Lesson 3: “Waltz of the Flowers”

**Objective:** Develop smooth phrasing in 3/4 time.

- **Listening Assignment:** Listen to “*Waltz of the Flowers*” and feel the 3/4 time signature.
  - **Activity:** Play simple waltz phrases, focusing on phrasing and legato tonguing.
  - **Saxophone Practice:** Play a waltz melody, emphasizing the flow of the 3/4 rhythm.
  - **Wrap-up:** Reflect on how phrasing and legato technique create the graceful feeling of a waltz.
- 

## Lesson 4: “Russian Dance (Trepak)”

**Objective:** Improve speed and precision.

- **Listening Assignment:** Listen to “*Russian Dance*” and analyze the rapid tempo and strong accents.
  - **Activity:** Practice fast passages with clear articulation, focusing on control at high tempos.
  - **Saxophone Practice:** Play quick scales or patterns, paying attention to consistent articulation.
  - **Wrap-up:** Discuss how speed and articulation create excitement in fast-paced music.
- 

## Lesson 5: “Arabian Dance”

**Objective:** Explore legato phrasing and tone control.

- **Listening Assignment:** Listen to “*Arabian Dance*” and note its smooth, flowing lines.
  - **Activity:** Practice long, connected phrases with minimal tonguing, focusing on breath control.
  - **Saxophone Practice:** Play slow melodies, emphasizing legato phrasing and consistent tone quality.
  - **Wrap-up:** Reflect on how legato playing contributes to the exotic mood of the piece.
- 

These lessons focus on developing key saxophone techniques such as articulation, dynamics, tempo control, and phrasing, while engaging students with *The Nutcracker* music.

### 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](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>