



TEACHER RESOURCES
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Play: Improvisation from a Score

In advance: Print out *Minuet in A Minor* from kids.pianoinspires.com/explore/activities.

1. Perform the minuet for the student/group:
 - Ask them to listen for the tempo, the meter, and the mood.
 - Ask them to listen again, this time with a movement activity. Teach them a simple waltz step, with a **big step** forward followed by two *small steps* in place: **Right left right, Left right left**, etc.
 - Discuss the tempo, meter, and mood.
 - Share the title, *Minuet in A Minor*. Define *minuet* using the movement activity.
2. Explore how a pianist can improvise with a piece they know.
 - Read aloud the introduction on page 6.
 - Play the first phrase again (mm. 1-4), asking students to follow along on page 6.
 - Play each improvised variation of line 1 (examples 1-3). Ask students to find and circle what has changed.
 - Ask the student or group (in partners possibly) to come up with a fourth way to improvise with the right hand. Try each idea suggested.
3. Apply these ideas to a piece the student already knows:
 - Ask the student/group to pick a piece from their current practice list that they know pretty well, just the first phrase.
 - Ask them to consider the improvisation ideas from the minuet: Which idea do you think would work best with your piece?
 - Explore these ideas through teacher demonstration or student improvisation.
4. **Alternatively**, if the student can play or can sight-read the minuet:
 - Apply the three different variation styles throughout the remainder of the minuet.
 - Create a new way to vary the right hand, and apply throughout the piece.
 - Consider sharing a video of the student's improvised version at kids.pianoinspires.com/submit.

For more ideas on improvisation, watch the webinar "[Incorporating Improvisation, Composition, and Non-Traditional Instruments in Piano Lessons](#)" with Grace Huang, Jason Sifford, and Kevin Woosley on pianoinspires.com.