

TEACHER RESOURCES
Winter 2025 (Vol. 2, No. 2)

Discover: Exploring Nature Through Sound and Movement

1. Play Nature-Inspired Pieces
 - o Play the recordings of “*Winter Holiday*,” “*Music of the Starry Night*,” and “*Tendre Fleur*” using the QR codes provided on pages 6–7 of the Winter issue for your students.
 - o Discuss each piece by asking:
 - What images or feelings come to mind when you hear this music?
 - What sounds remind you of nature? Describe any patterns or instruments that stand out.
 - o Encourage students to move to the music, mimicking bird movements or twinkling fingers like fireflies to connect movement with sound.
 - o Have students write a few sentences about how the composers expressed nature through music.
2. Improvise Nature-Inspired Sounds
 - o In pairs, have one student play high notes with a reflective, melancholic character (as in “*Music of the Starry Night*”) while the other adds rhythmic patterns in the middle register, like broken chords or a waltz accompaniment.
 - o Play primary chords with rolling patterns on which students can improvise on the following:
 - For “*Winter Holiday*,” explore arpeggiated patterns and high-register chords to mimic snow gusts.
 - For “*Music of the Starry Night*,” have students use the piano’s strings (if possible) to create soft textures.
 - For “*Tendre Fleur*,” work on smooth, gentle slurs to evoke the image of a flower blossoming.
3. Explore the Octatonic Scale
 - o Demonstrate the octatonic scale by alternating whole and half steps, as exemplified in “*Revels in the Devil’s Garden*” on page 8.
 - o Select 2-3 notes from the scale and encourage students to create different rhythms and dynamics, expanding with more notes as they gain confidence.
 - o Improvise short melodies using the octatonic scale, encouraging students to imagine climbing up and down natural arches.

For more activities connecting piano music and nature see the additional activities for Karen Tanaka’s Children of Light at kids.pianoinspires.com/activities.