



TEACHER RESOURCES
Autumn 2025 (Vol. 3, No. 1)

Explore: Musical Time Travelers of 2025

After reading pages 3, 5, 7, and 9, invite students to become “Musical Time Travelers,” exploring the lives and works of pianists and composers featured in *Piano Inspires Kids*, Autumn 2025. Each group will take on the role of researchers, curators, and storytellers to bring their artist’s timeline and music to life.

Part One: Musicians of Today Showcase

- Divide students into small groups. Assign or let each group choose a composer or pianist from the 2025 list on page 9.
- Acting as music historians, each group researches their artist’s life and work.
- Each group writes a short “Musician’s Note” in the voice of the artist, answering:
 - “What inspires my music today?”
 - “How do I connect the past to the future?”
 - “What message do I want to share through my work?”
- Create a timeline of the artist’s life. Include major milestones: birth, education, important performances, compositions, collaborations, and cultural influences.
- Build a playlist of two to three performances or recordings that best represent the artist. Include video/audio links or descriptions.
- Create posters, slides, or digital displays.

Part Two: Music Critics in Training

- Present all findings from Part One to the class in a “studio class” format.
- Ask students to imagine they are music critics writing for a magazine reviewing the presentations.
- Working in pairs, students write a short review using prompts like:
 - “Which artist’s music felt the most emotionally powerful?”
 - “Which timeline revealed something surprising or inspiring?”
- Have students read their reviews aloud or post them in a classroom gallery walk. Encourage reflection and peer responses.

Hear Here: Technique and Creativity Through Oscar Peterson

- Watch & Listen: Play a short clip of Oscar Peterson performing [Boogie Blues Study](#). Check out Peterson’s fast technique and improvising.
- Ask students to write down their own ideas to the question: How does his technique inspire you or challenge your idea of jazz piano? Then, divide the class into partners and ask them to compare their ideas. Bring the class together and have the partners share what ideas they had in common.

For further exploration of storytelling, emotion, and compositional technique in music, read [“Breaking Stereotypes: Indigenous Composers Defining New Musical Frontiers”](#) by Connor Chee in *Piano Magazine*, Winter 2025 (Vol. 16, No. 4).