

***Play: Discovering “Flor de Nochebuena” by Desireé González-Miller*****Listen and Imagine**

- Begin the lesson by playing or performing *Flor de Nochebuena* (Winter issue of *Piano Inspires Kids*, pages 10–11).
- Invite students to listen actively and share what emotions or images come to mind.
  - Ask if the title, “The Burning Leaf” or “The Flower that Fades,” helps them imagine a story or picture. Encourage them to describe the colors or moods the music evokes.
- Have students briefly research Desireé González-Miller, learning about her background, inspirations, and cultural influences.
  - Ask whether knowing her story or heritage changes how they hear the music.
- Listen again and guide students to analyze and label the sections of the piece as A, B, and A'.
  - Discuss what makes each part sound different and what feels familiar when the first section returns.
  - Encourage students to think about how melody, rhythm, and dynamics create contrast.
  - Depending on their level, have them lightly label harmony changes such as tonic, subdominant, and dominant, or simply identify where the sound feels like “home” and “away.”
- Experiment with tone and pedaling.
  - Play short phrases with and without pedal, then ask what changes when the pedal is used and how it affects the mood or flow.
  - Encourage students to connect pedal use to the emotional “color” of the piece, its warmth, brightness, or reflection.
- Add a creative element by incorporating simple percussion instruments such as bells or shakers, or include a short spoken introduction: “This is our musical poinsettia—a gift of light and sound.”
- Conclude the lesson with a short performance or recording that pairs the music with student drawings or reflections.
- Finally, lead a short reflection. Ask what message of light or kindness the piece shares and how analyzing the harmony or structure deepened their connection to the music.
- Invite them to consider how learning about the composer’s story guided their interpretation and understanding of the piece.

**Share Your Performance**

Go to [kids.pianoinspires.com/music-of-the-issue](https://kids.pianoinspires.com/music-of-the-issue) to record and upload your performance of *Flor de Nochebuena*. Join young pianists from around the world and be featured on the Piano Inspires Kids YouTube Channel. Celebrate your creativity and share the beauty of this musical poinsettia with our global piano community!