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Welcome back to Busy Kids Love Music, the podcast where we explore the fascinating world of music through stories, history, and fun facts! I'm your host, Carly Seifert, the creator of Busy Kids Do Piano, and today we're going on a musical journey to one of the world's most famous festivals: Oktoberfest!

Oktoberfest is a traditional German festival that usually takes place in late September and runs into early October. It began over 200 years ago in Munich, Germany, as a celebration of the marriage of Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese. It was so much fun that the people of Munich decided to keep the tradition going year after year. Today, it's celebrated all over the world, with people enjoying German food, culture, and of course—music!

So, what kind of music do you hear at Oktoberfest? Well, the music at Oktoberfest is lively, fun, and meant to get people dancing and singing along. The most traditional type of music you'll hear is called "oom-pah" music, which gets its name from the sound of the tuba or sousaphone, going "oom-pah, oom-pah" in a steady rhythm.

An oom-pah band is usually made up of several important instruments. First, there's the tuba or sousaphone, which provide that deep, booming bass sound. The tuba is the largest and lowest-pitched brass instrument, and it provides the notes that keep the music grounded and people's feet tapping! Then, there are the accordion and clarinet, which add melody and playful tunes. You might also hear a trumpet or trombone, which play bright, bold notes to keep the energy high. And of course, there's the drums, which keep the beat steady so that everyone can dance together.

The most popular dances at Oktoberfest are called the polka and the waltz. The polka is a lively, fast-paced dance where you move around in a circle with your partner, hopping and skipping to the beat.

The waltz, on the other hand, is a bit slower and more graceful, with dancers gliding smoothly around the floor. Both of these dances are perfect for the energetic music played by the oom-pah bands!

Another important part of Oktoberfest music is the tradition of sing-alongs. There are many popular German songs that everyone knows, and during Oktoberfest, the bands will often play these songs so that the whole crowd can join in. One of the most famous sing-along songs is called "Ein Prosit," which is a toast to good health and happiness. When the band plays this song, everyone lifts their drinks, sings along, and then cheers together:

You'll hear this song played over and over again at Oktoberfest, and every time it's played, people stand up, clink their glasses, and join in the singing.

Music is so important to Oktoberfest because it helps create the festive atmosphere that the celebration is known for. The lively tunes, the happy dancing, and the joyful singing all come together to make Oktoberfest a time of fun and togetherness. Whether you're in Munich or celebrating at a local festival, the music of Oktoberfest brings people together and fills the air with happiness.

I hope you've enjoyed learning about the music of Oktoberfest today! If you'd like to hear more Oktoberfest tunes, I've created a special playlist for you that's linked in the show notes at [busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/133](https://busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/133). And remember, if you want to keep exploring the world of music, be sure to subscribe to Busy Kids Love Music wherever you listen to your podcasts or visit [busykidsdopiano.com/busykidslovemusic](https://busykidsdopiano.com/busykidslovemusic) to check out previous episodes.

I look forward to connecting with you in two weeks when the next episode of Busy Kids Love Music airs. Bye for now!