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Hello, and welcome to Busy Kids Love Music! I'm Carly, the creator of Busy Kids Do Piano, and I'm so happy you're joining me today. Before we get started, I just wanted to let you know that this episode is scheduled to air on May 6th, which is right in the middle of my spring public enrollment period for my online piano lesson programs. If you'd like to learn more about these programs, visit busykidsdopiano.com or busymomsdopiano.com to learn how you can join before we close enrollment on May 15th.

If you joined me last month for our April Showers episode, you remember that we explored the sound of raindrops and storms. And you know how the saying goes — April showers bring May flowers! Today's episode is the perfect sequel to last month's musical adventure. We're celebrating the beautiful blossoms of May by listening to classical music inspired by flowers.

We'll hear pieces that sound like blooming gardens and delicate petals! Let's get ready to listen closely and imagine the most colorful, flower-filled gardens.

Our first piece today is one you might recognize — Waltz of the Flowers by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. This beautiful waltz is from The Nutcracker ballet. Even though The Nutcracker is a Christmas story, this part of the ballet is all about flowers dancing and twirling.

In the ballet, the main characters visit the magical Land of Sweets, where they see a performance called the Waltz of the Flowers. Dancers dressed as flowers twirl and sway across the stage, showing off the beauty and grace of a blooming garden.

Even though it's part of a wintertime ballet, Waltz of the Flowers feels perfect for May — when real gardens come to life after April's showers. The music is grand and sweeping, almost like watching a field of colorful blossoms moving gently in the breeze.

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As you listen, imagine you're standing in the middle of a giant flower garden. Can you hear how the music sounds like petals opening up and flowers dancing in the sunlight?

Next, let's listen to a piece by the Austrian composer Johann Strauss II called *Voices of Spring*, or in German, *Frühlingsstimmen* (say it like this: "FROO-ling-shtee-men"). I think this piece might be familiar to you...

You might recognize the very beginning of this piece — it's the music I use for the theme song of *Busy Kids Love Music*! Every time you hear the twinkly opening notes, it's like a little musical "hello" to start our episodes. Now you'll get to hear even more of the full piece!

Strauss was known as the "Waltz King" because he wrote so many beautiful waltzes. He originally wrote *Voices of Spring* in 1882 for a famous opera singer to perform with an orchestra. The lyrics were all about how spring arrives — flowers bloom, birds sing, and the whole world feels fresh and new.

Even though it was first written as a song, *Voices of Spring* became even more famous as an instrumental piece — without words — because the music itself sounds so joyful and full of life! It's often performed at concerts to celebrate the arrival of springtime.

If you listen closely, you'll notice the sparkling sound of the flute and the quick, light notes played by the violins. These instruments help create the feeling of flowers popping up and birds fluttering around. As you listen, imagine a giant garden where thousands of colorful flowers are waking up after a long winter's sleep. Can you hear how the high, light sounds make you think of new blossoms opening and little birds chirping in the fresh air?

Our last piece today is called the *Flower Duet*, written by the French composer Léopold Delibes. It comes from an opera called *Lakmé*, which

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was first performed in 1883.

The opera tells the story of Lakmé, the daughter of a priest in India, and part of the story takes place in a beautiful, peaceful garden filled with blooming flowers. The Flower Duet happens when Lakmé and her servant, Mallika, walk along a river picking flowers and enjoying the beauty of nature all around them.

You might even recognize the Flower Duet because it's become very famous outside of opera! It's been used in movies, TV shows, and commercials — usually whenever someone wants to create a feeling of calm, beauty, or a peaceful scene.

Even though this piece was written long ago, it still makes listeners feel like they are standing in a lovely garden full of colorful blossoms — perfect for our May Flowers theme! In this duet, the two singers' voices blend so smoothly that it can sometimes sound like one magical voice.

As you listen, imagine you are standing by a calm river, with flowers growing all around you. Can you hear how the two voices weave together like vines or flower stems twisting and turning gently in the breeze?

Isn't it amazing how music can help us picture beautiful blooming gardens and colorful flowers?

If you'd like to hear more, I've created a special YouTube playlist with full-length performances of the pieces we listened to today — Waltz of the Flowers, Voices of Spring, and the Flower Duet. You can find the link to the playlist in the show notes at busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/149.

And while you listen, you can grab a spring flower coloring sheet that I've also linked for you! It's the perfect way to keep your hands busy and your imagination blooming while you enjoy the music. And again, you'll

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find that PDF along with the playlist at
busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/149

Thanks for joining me today for this beautiful musical bouquet! I'll see you next time on Busy Kids Love Music when our next episode airs in two weeks. Until then — keep listening and keep blooming!

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