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Hello, and welcome to Busy Kids Love Music, the podcast that helps you discover the music of composers, cultures, and traditions from all around the world. I'm Carly Seifert, the creator of Busy Kids Do Piano, and I'm so glad you're here for Part 2 of our series about the English composer Imogen Holst. I have another audio treasure hunt to go with this episode, so be sure to download your printable pdf in the show notes if you'd like to follow along.

In our last episode, we got to know Imogen—her musical family, her life as a composer, and how she made her own mark on the world of music. Today, we're going to take a closer listen to one of her most beautiful and reflective works: a short cello concerto called "The Fall of the Leaf."

Have you ever stood outside on a quiet autumn day and watched the leaves drift down from the trees? That peaceful, almost magical moment is what Imogen Holst captures in this music.

"The Fall of the Leaf" is a piece for solo cello that feels gentle, moody, and even a little mysterious. It's a musical picture of autumn—a season of change, calm, and beauty.

This piece was written in the 1960s, and it's based on an old English melody from the 17th century, also called The Fall of the Leaf. Imogen took this ancient tune and created her own version of it, using her imagination to bring the falling of a single leaf to life through sound.

Let's talk about what to listen for when you hear this piece.

First, listen to how the cello doesn't always play smooth or happy melodies. Sometimes, the notes seem to clash or sound unusual. This is called dissonance—when two notes sound like they don't quite belong together. Imogen Holst uses dissonance on purpose to make the music feel a little uncertain or mysterious, like watching the seasons change

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Second, listen for the movement of the music. There aren't any loud crashes or speedy runs. Instead, the notes move slowly, like a leaf twisting and drifting to the ground. It's gentle, and sometimes it pauses—as if the music is catching its breath.

Third, think about the mood. Does it feel happy? Sad? Peaceful? Maybe a mix of all three? Imogen Holst had a gift for writing music that doesn't just sound pretty—it makes you feel something, even if you can't quite put it into words.

How did you do with your Audio Treasure Hunt! If you haven't yet, you can download the free printable from the show notes and listen closely to discover the answers to six questions hidden throughout the episode. It's a great way to test your listening ears and dive even deeper into Imogen Holst's world of autumn sounds. You'll find a link to a performance of *The Fall of the Leaf* in the show notes. As you listen, close your eyes and imagine:

- A single leaf falling from a tall tree.
- The wind gently blowing.
- The quiet of an October afternoon.

What colors or shapes come to mind? What kind of story do you think this music tells?

Thanks so much for joining me today to explore this beautiful autumn piece by Imogen Holst. Don't forget to grab your free resources from the show notes at busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/161, and be sure to check out the listening links, too.

Until next time—keep listening and keep learning. Bye for now!