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Hey there and welcome to episode 62 of Busy Kids Love Music, a podcast for music loving families. I'm Carly Seifert, the creator of Busy Kids Do Piano, and I'm delighted to have you here with me today.

This episode of Busy Kids Love Music is set to air in January which means that here in the United States, the season of winter is well underway. Where I live in Georgia, that means that it's a little colder than usual and we may even have a day or two of snow – where you live, winter might mean lots of snow and ice and really cold temperatures. Maybe in the winter you like to do things like ice skate or ski or curl up in front of the fireplace with a cup of hot cocoa and a good book.

The winter season has inspired composers throughout history to write music as well, and today we're going to take a listen to some of those winter-themed pieces.

The piece you're listening to now is the fourth concerto of Vivaldi's famous group of violin concertos, The Four Seasons. We've discussed two of the other seasons from this collection on the podcast previously, as it is the best known of Vivaldi's works. Just as with the other concerti from The Four Seasons, each part has 3 movements – or sections – and follows a pattern of fast-slow-fast. The sonnet – or poem – that accompanies the music of the concerto is divided into three sections. The words of the opening sonnet for "Winter" say:

Frozen and shivering in the icy snow,  
In the severe blasts of a terrible wind  
To run stamping one's feet each moment,  
One's teeth chattering through the cold.

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Do you hear the violin making the sounds of trembling cold and chattering teeth in the music?

Listen to this next piece of music, and see if it brings to mind any kind of winter activity with its sounds:

In 1882, French composer Emile Waldteufel (Waltzful) was inspired by the sight of Parisians ice skating on the frozen Seine river and wrote this famous piece called “The Skaters’ Waltz”. Waldteufel wrote over 200 works and many waltzes, but this is his most famous. The Skaters’ Waltz has been used in video games and dozens of television shows and movies – from Downton Abbey to Rocketman. Can you feel how the music expresses the sliding motions of the ice skaters as they dance around the rink?

You’ve heard a winter-inspired waltz...now listen to a bit of this winter-inspired polka by Josef Strauss:

In the ballrooms of the mid 1800s, the polka was a popular dance and everyone who was anyone knew how to polka. The story goes that Strauss’ patron – the person who financially supported his music – wanted to host an elaborate party for his wealthy friends. He installed an ice-rink in his ballroom to host a winter festival carnival where this piece – Winterlust Polka – is said to have premiered. Winterlust Polka – translated to “Delights of Winter” certainly captures the exciting festivity of winter, don’t you think? What are some words you would use to describe this piece?

We’ve learned about 3 pieces inspired by winter on our podcast – Vivaldi’s Winter, Winterlust Polka and The Skaters’ Waltz, but there are so many more pieces inspired by the coldest season of the year. I’m sharing my curated Winter Playlist for you on Youtube, and you’ll find the link to that on this episode’s show notes at [busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/62](https://www.busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/62). On the playlist you’ll hear different

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arrangements of the 3 pieces we discussed today as well as a few other pieces I've selected inspired by the winter seasons. Again, you'll find the link to that playlist at [busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/62](https://busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/62).

Thanks so much for joining me today to learn more about winter music, and I'll look forward to connecting with you again in 2 weeks on the Busy Kids Love Music podcast. Bye for now!