

## Developing A Love For

# *Classical Music*

*“Sometimes you have to watch somebody love something before you can love it yourself. It is as if they are showing you the way.” – Dallin Miller*

Classical music is fading from our lives all too quickly. Sometimes all that a child needs is an example – someone showing them how to listen to and understand this beautiful music. Here are several ideas to help make classical music a regular part of your life so the unique values and transformative powers of classical music will never be lost on your children!

- Try listening to just a few minutes of Classical music each day! (This link has several free online radio options to do this: <http://www.projectinspire.org/listen-up.html>)
- Learn about the instruments within the orchestra. Then listen to an orchestral piece and try to identify the sounds you hear.
- Read a book about a composer and research their life for a history project.
- Learn to dance to a traditional folk song like Chopin’s Polonaises or waltz to one of the many written by Brahms, Chopin, Strauss, etc.
- Listen to a character piece (such as Schumann’s *Carnival* or Debussy’s *Children’s Corner*).
- Find music that tells a story (such as Saint-Saens’ *Carnival of the Animals*, Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker*, or Prokofiev’s *Peter and the Wolf*). Borrow a book from the library to look at pictures or draw your own while you listen to the music!
- Try listening to one of the stories on CD “Beethoven Lives Upstairs” or “Mr. Bach Comes to Call.” With narration of voices and music woven throughout, it’s sure to keep the car ride quiet!
- Watch one of Disney’s Fantasia movies for family night.
- Look up a few of your favorite artists on YouTube and watch their performances together.
- Follow a free webcast of an International Piano Competition such as the Van Cliburn or the Chopin Competition. Choose a favorite competitor to cheer on from afar!
- Read the book “Can You Hear It” to see art from the Metropolitan Museum of Art paired with classical music to help children understand how to look and listen to classics.
- Attend a concert! Support the local orchestras and symphonies and take your child whenever you can. Student tickets are very affordable and it makes a wonderful night out!
- Attend a ballet and pay attention to the amazing musical concert going on with the dancing. (Personal favorites include Tchaikovsky’s *Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*)