

WUNDER KEYS

PIANO IMPROV ACTIVITY



NUTS ABOUT BIRTHDAYS
IMPROV DUET

A Level One Improvisation Activity

NUTS ABOUT BIRTHDAYS

by Andrea and Trevor Dow



© 2017 Teach Music Today Learning Solutions

This musical file is intended for use in the purchasing teacher's private studio. Permission is granted to the purchasing teacher for duplication and use within a private studio. Duplication for resale is not permitted. Any adaptation of this copyrighted material requires the written consent of the copyright owner.

INSTRUCTIONS

Players:

2 players

Materials:

7 Improv Cards, Teacher Duet page

Playing the Game:

- 1) Print this *Nuts About Birthdays* Improv Pack (double-sided).
- 2) Have your piano students practice saying and clapping the *Nuts About Birthdays* phrases on the back of the improv cards. These phrases provide the rhythm your students will be using when they participate in the improv duet. *Note: If you have creative kiddos who want more freedom, we have included two blank cards that can be used to create their own phrases/rhythms.*
- 3) Have your students choose their two favorite *Nuts About Birthdays* improv cards.
- 4) With their hand in C position, have your students experiment with various combinations of notes (using only C, D, E, F and G) to match the rhythms on the cards selected in Step 3. Encourage them to continue their explorations until they decide on a preferred melody for each card.
- 5) Begin playing your teacher accompaniment. When your students feel ready to hop in, have them begin repeatedly playing one of the melodies they created in Step 4. Encourage your students to add in the second melody from Step 4 when they feel comfortable. Instruct your students to switch back and forth between their two melodies.
- 6) Once your students are jamming away without a care, have them expand on their improv skills by experimenting with more card combinations, extra notes, improv "on the fly", harmonic intervals or chords, and articulation changes. The sky's the limit... be creative!

Nuts About Birthdays!

(Teacher Duet)

Happily

Andrea Dow

Measures 1-4 of the piece. The music is in 4/4 time. The right hand (RH) plays chords in the upper register, and the left hand (LH) plays a simple bass line. The first measure starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. A finger number '2' is written below the first note of the LH in measure 1.

Measures 5-8 of the piece. The RH continues with chords, and the LH continues with a simple bass line. Measure 5 is marked with the number '5' at the beginning.

Measures 9-12 of the piece. The RH features a melodic line with slurs and fingerings (3, 1). The LH has a simple bass line. The dynamic is marked mezzo-piano (*mp*) in measure 9.

Measures 13-16 of the piece. The RH continues with a melodic line, including a triplet in measure 13 and a fourth finger fingering in measure 16. The LH has a simple bass line.

Measures 17-20 of the piece. The RH plays chords, and the LH plays a simple bass line. The dynamic is marked forte (*f*) in measure 17. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 20.



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
LET'S GO NUTS

Improv Cards



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
LET'S GO NUTS

Improv Cards



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
LET'S GO NUTS

Improv Cards



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
LET'S GO NUTS

Improv Cards



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
LET'S GO NUTS

Improv Cards



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
LET'S GO NUTS

Improv Cards



IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
LET'S GO NUTS

Improv Cards



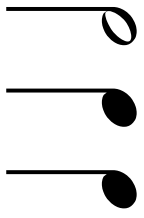
IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
LET'S GO NUTS

Improv Cards

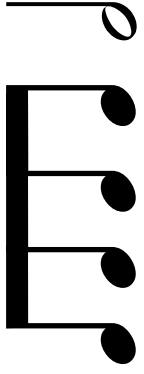


IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY
LET'S GO NUTS

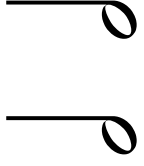
Improv Cards



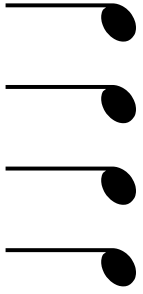
PARTY TIME!



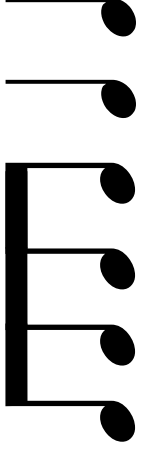
IT'S MY SPECIAL DAY!



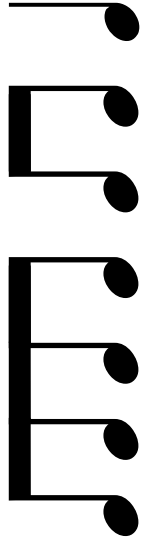
PRESENTS!



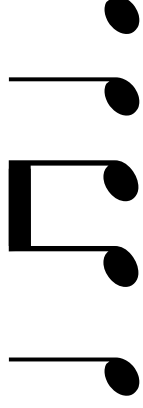
LET'S EAT ICE CREAM!



HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY



HAVE A PIECE OF CHOCOLATE CAKE!



BLOW OUT THE CANDLES