



# SHADES of SOUND

# Summer

A Listening & Coloring Book for Pianists



Jennifer Boster,  
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FOR PIANISTS

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# Introduction

My goal in creating the Shades of Sound listening curriculum is to help piano students gain an interest in and a love and appreciation for great classical music.

Aspiring pianists need to know the literature, hear the greats perform, and be inspired and excited by the great music that is available! Just as writers need to read, read, read, pianists need to listen! Through this fun curriculum, students will learn about the great composers and their works. Listening repertoire selected includes selections from the solo piano literature, as well as piano and orchestra literature, and orchestral works.

My hope is that students can add just 5-10 minutes of listening per day to their normal practicing. Listening to great music will change their understanding of music and will vastly increase their music history knowledge. It will excite and inspire them, encourage further study and listening, give them new pieces to add to their own repertoire wish list, infuse more great music into their lives, homes and families, and will boost their musicianship and expression to the next level.

## Summer

This volume of the series focuses on music for the summer season. With musical examples by composers from the baroque era through modern day, this book has a variety of styles and genres, including romantic overtures, piano rags, jazz opera arias, baroque orchestral works, piano fantasias, improvisations and barcarolles, light orchestral works, piano trios and more. Visit a musical world full of enchanted fairies, cotton fields, gorgeous sunsets, blazing heat and summer thunderstorms. I hope you enjoy this book!

# How to Use This Book

## Read

First read the background information about the piece. Each piece featured in this book includes the following information: piece title, composer name and dates, and interesting background information on that particular piece. There is also a section called “What to listen for” and a question or two to help encourage active listening and learning. I have also included the approximate time of each piece (according to the recordings I selected for the playlist).

## Listen

Search for and pull up “The Playful Piano – Shades of Sound: Summer” playlist on YouTube (or scan this handy QR code!). All selections included in this book are in that list in the same order they appear here. I have chosen videos for each selection that are of good quality and will be inspirational and educational.



As you listen, rate each piece by coloring in the stars. Five stars means “I loved this piece so much!” and one star means “I didn’t really care for this piece.” My hope is that students will find things to learn and appreciate about each selection, whether it becomes a favorite piece or not.

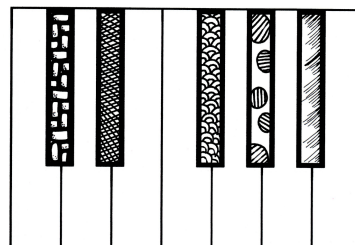
## Color

As you listen to each piece, have fun coloring the accompanying coloring page! Jot down any notes or thoughts and answer the questions on the previous page.

## Create a Repertoire Wish List

The “Repertoire Wish List” is a place for students to record pieces that they absolutely love and would love to learn someday! I hope that students will get excited about the rich variety of piano repertoire available and be inspired to learn some of the pieces they hear.

Happy Listening!  
—Jennifer Boster  
ThePlayfulPiano.com



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# Summer Song

Piece: **Fantasy Pieces Op. 45: Summer Song**

Composer: **Agathe Backer-Grondahl**, 1847-1907, Norway  
2 minutes

About the composer: Agathe Backer-Grondahl was a Norwegian composer, pianist and teacher. Her family was wealthy and loved art and music. At one point she studied piano with Franz Liszt. Agathe debuted at the age of 26 with Edvard Grieg conducting the Philharmonic Society. She made concert tours in the Scandinavian countries as well as in England and Germany, specializing in performing works of Chopin, Beethoven and Schumann. She is best known as a composer of songs and piano pieces. Her piano pieces are mainly lyric pieces with descriptive titles written in simple song form – similar to the lyric pieces of her contemporary, Edvard Grieg. She was an influential and successful piano teacher despite the fact that in her later years she went almost completely deaf.



About the piece: *Summer Song* is a lyric piano piece written in 6/8 time. Maurice Hinson describes her piano works as showing “a fertile musical mind combined with skillful technique.” This simple but beautiful romantic piece evokes a beautiful Norwegian summer scene.

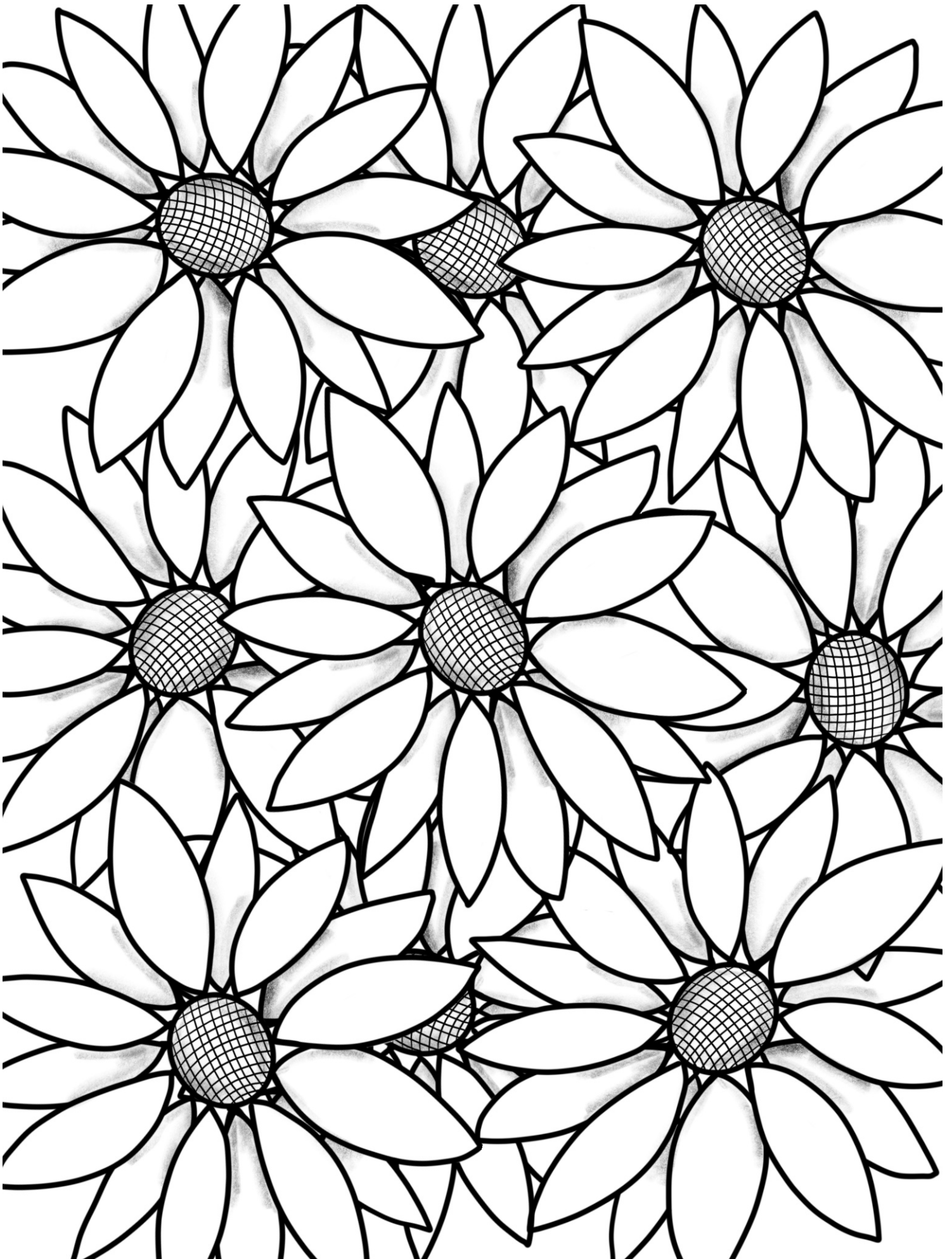
What to listen for: Listen for a simple, lyrical melody in the right hand. This melody is later played in the left hand and embellished with a sixteenth note chord pattern in the right hand.

## Backer-Grondahl – Summer Song

Rate this piece: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

What I like about this piece:

How I would describe this piece:



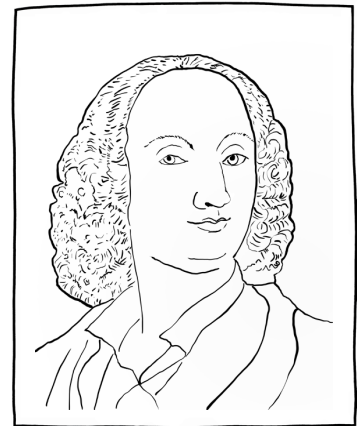


# The Four Seasons: Summer

Piece: **The Four Seasons, Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 8 RV 315 "Summer"**

Composer: **Antonio Vivaldi**, 1678-1741, Italy  
11 minutes

About the composer: Antonio Vivaldi was an Italian violinist and composer of the late baroque period known especially for his instrumental music, including over five hundred concertos. He also wrote almost fifty operas. In his day he was known as the "Red Priest"- because of his red hair and the fact that he was an ordained priest.



About the piece: Written in 1720, *The Four Seasons* is Vivaldi's most famous work. It is a set of four violin concertos, each based on one of the four seasons of the year. Each concerto is comprised of three movements, and Vivaldi published each movement with a poem. The poems published with "Summer" are as follows:

## *Allegro non molto*

Under a hard Season, fired up by the Sun  
Languishes man, languishes the flock and  
burns the pine  
We hear the cuckoo's voice;  
Then sweet songs of the turtledove and  
finch are heard.  
Soft breezes stir the air, but threatening  
The North Wind sweeps them suddenly  
aside.  
The shepherd trembles,  
Fearing violent storms and his fate.

## *Adagio e piano – Presto e forte*

The fear of lightning and fierce thunder  
Robs his tired limbs of rest  
As gnats and flies buzz furiously around.

## *Presto*

Alas, his fears were justified  
The Heavens thunder and roar and with hail  
Cut the head off the wheat and damage the  
grain.

## Vivaldi – The Four Seasons: Summer

**What to listen for:** In the first movement you will hear contrasting sections – a hot, quiet summer day with the North Wind suddenly sweeping across the fields, represented by the solo violin and then the whole orchestra. During the slow sections listen for the birds singing. As you listen to the second movement, imagine the tired shepherd trying to sleep as he is relentlessly awoken by gnats and flies buzzing furiously around. Finally, in the third movement, there is a big storm with thunder, lightning and hail.

Rate this piece: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

What I like about this piece:

How I would describe this piece:

