

# MUSICPLAY

## THEMES & VARIATIONS

## February FUN!

**Lunar New Year ~ Valentine's Day ~ Black History Month**

It's tough to decide what to focus on in February! Whether you want to celebrate Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day or Black History Month --- or ALL of them, Musicplayonline has units, songs in the song list and listening activities for you.

The February Fun Webinar is scheduled for  
**Wednesday, January 25th, 2023 at 5:00-6:00 pm MST**  
**7:00-8:00 PM EST**

Register at [www.workshops.musicplay.ca](http://www.workshops.musicplay.ca)

<https://workshops.musicplay.ca/courses/having-fun-in-the-music-classroom-in-february-valentines-day-and-black-history-month-webinar-with-denise-gagne/>

If you're busy, you can always watch it on our Musicplay YouTube Channel or at [workshops.musicplay.ca](http://workshops.musicplay.ca)

The webinar will feature a selection of Denise's favorite activities from the song list (and Learning modules), Units and Listening activities.

## LUNAR NEW YEAR

*Lunar New Year started Jan. 22, but it's not too late to do a fun lesson on the Chinese Zodiac*

**UNITS - Lunar New Year**




*Look up your year!*

| Chinese Zodiac Years   |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  Rat: 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020, 2032    |  Horse: 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014, 2026, 2038   |  |  |
|  Ox: 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021, 2033     |  Rat: 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015, 2027, 2039     |  |  |
|  Tiger: 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022, 2034  |  Monkey: 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016, 2028, 2040  |  |  |
|  Rabbit: 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023, 2035 |  Rooster: 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017, 2029, 2041 |  |  |
|  Dragon: 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024, 2036 |  Dog: 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030, 2042     |  |  |
|  Snake: 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025, 2037  |  Pig: 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031, 2043     |  |  |

*Teach a song with animal effects - play the effects on instruments or have fun with vocal effects.*

**Animals of the Zodiac**



*Create a B Section with word rhythms - Easy*

**Word Rhythm Composition - Easy**




*Create a B Section with all the animals*

**Word Rhythm Composition - Two-Beat**



*Create a B Section with sound effects*

**Word Rhythm Composition - Easy**



There are worksheets, printable manipulatives, solfa/note

name practice, piano accompaniment - great lesson!

# Valentine's Day

Rig a Jig Jig - a fun song about friends.

Valentine's is a good time to talk about friendship in class and encourage the students to be friendly with all!

The clap game has a kids demo. The students in the class form a circle (or two circles). The class sings the verse softly while the first student walks slowly around the circle looking for a partner. The first student chooses a partner after the words "a friend of mine I chanced to meet." The singing becomes louder as the two students skip around the outside of the circle. At the next verse, they both walk alone and both choose new partners. Continue until all students in the class are chosen.

There are too many Valentine favorites to describe them all. Search "Valentine" for all the related songs, units and activities! A few more of my favorites include:

- in PreK, but can use for PK, K, 1 - I like Valentines. This is a simple echo song, so easy to teach in 1 lesson.
- in K, but can use for PK, K, 1 - Another I Like Valentines - dynamic contrast, so good loud/quiet practice
- in Gr. 1 - I Like You - this has Valentine word option OR friend word option. Always a favorite, with many rhythm reading extensions include word rhythm composition, 1 or 2 sounds, and matching worksheet/manipulatives

## 66. Rig a Jig Jig



- in Gr. 2 - I Sent a Valentine - fun chase game that kids love.
- in Gr. 2 but use with 2-5 - Tony Chestnut knows I love you. Great tempo teaching song and FUN!!!
- in Gr. 3 - Love Somebody - great song for working on 16th note rhythms. I play this as a chase game. FUN!!!  
Love Somebody has many beat/rhythm extensions including sounds on a beat (to label 16ths), Rhythm Sort and Rhythm Erase.
- In Gr. 4 - lovely traditional round, "Make New Friends"
- In JJ Songs for a Brighter World - Friends Forever, and Sing-A-Long are great friendship songs for upper elementary
- UNITS - Valentine's Day - has many great activities - What Makes a Good Friend and Valentine themed Recorder Mad Minutes and interactive

# Black History Month

African American Singing Games and African Songs from Our Musical World.

Choral Music - Hymn to Freedom by Oscar Peterson is an amazing and uplifting song by a Canadian Jazz icon!

A longer lesson on Oscar Peterson can be found in Lesson 16 - January Week 1 - Middle School

## Singing Games

12. Obwisana

19. Kye Kye Koolay

33. Green Sally Up

60. Circle 'Round the Zero

65. Tue Tue

Tànk Loxo Nopp

Maua Mazuri

Spirituals

Read a 2009 article in NAFME journal about spirituals.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0027432109351686?journalCode=mejg>

NEW - John Jacobson Biopic on Scott Joplin

Choral

- I Shall Not Be Moved
62. Wai Bamba
- Maple Leaf Rag
102. Siyahamba
- Hold On To Your Dream
- Lift Every Voice and Sing
61. Hymn to Freedom

Spirituals

42. Kumbayah
46. Follow the Drinkin' Gourd
65. Michael Row
61. Hymn to Freedom
63. Wade in the Water
- I Shall Not Be Moved



John Jacobson song - Maple Leaf Rag

The lyrics teach about Scott Joplin - set to the Maple Leaf Rag



John Jacobson choreography for Maple Leaf Rag



**WEBINAR WEDNESDAY - Jan 25, 2023**

**February FUN!!!**

**Tips and Tricks for a painless recorder program  
with Denise Gagne**

**5:00 MTD / 7:00 PM EST. (a little later as Denise has an earlier webinar)**

Join the FREE Zoom webinar on Wed. Jan. 25th at 5:00 Mtn / 7:00 EST

<https://workshops.musicplay.ca/courses/having-fun-in-the-music-classroom-in-february-valentines-day-and-black-history-month-webinar-with-denise-gagne/>

**Can't join this week's webinar?**

**No problem - Our webinars are available 3 ways -**

1. On our **Workshops.Musicplay.ca** site. [LINK](#)
2. On our **YouTube Channel** - Musicplay. [LINK](#)
3. On our new **podcast** - Musicplay Minutes. [LINK to PODCASTS](#)

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## How to Contact Themes & Variations

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