



High and Low, Here We Go!

Instrumental Fun: This recording of “The Muffin Man” features string bass and flute solos after the introductory drums. Show your child a picture of each instrument as you listen to the recording. Notice that the bass makes a low sound, and encourage your child to join you in trying to match your voice to this same low sound. Listen to the high sound of the flute and try to match your voices to it, too.

Dance to the Music: Play “The Muffin Man” again, and this time get up and dance! Incorporate movements to emphasize the instruments’ high and low timbres: Tap the ground when you hear the low sound of the bass, and wiggle your fingers high in the sky when the flute comes in. In the middle of the song, enjoy clapping, dancing, and singing along with the Muffin Man.

As If Having Fun Isn’t Enough: Careful listening takes practice. Too many times we tune out, and the sounds we hear become nothing more than background noises. By focusing on two instruments of very different timbres, your child is developing listening and pitch-matching skills. Aural discrimination skills such as these are important for singing—as well as for basic language acquisition. Showing pictures of the bass and flute helps your child recognize, connect, and make comparisons. And of course dancing promotes large muscle coordination and self-expression!

Contributed by Sandy Yagel *Little Hands Presents Kindermusik*
Washington, DC area * www.littlehands.com



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