

RCM Sparks Explorers

Singing the RCM Museum to Life Project

Sensational Music-making, Storytelling and Theatricality

The inspiration for this activity pack is an item from the RCM Museum.

The Greatest Exhibition: Activity Pack 1

RCM Sparks is the Royal College of Music's learning and participation programme.
To find out more and get involved visit www.rcm.ac.uk/sparks

The Royal Baton

A composer and conductor called Walter Parrott put on a fantastic birthday concert for Queen Victoria's 80th birthday in 1899.

She was so pleased that she gave him a diamond encrusted baton as a present. It has her royal initials on it: VR, which means Victoria Regina (Queen Victoria in Latin).

This baton is now in the RCM Museum!



Activity 1:

Make your own baton!

I made one by rolling paper into a cone and then decorating it with my initials – AJ! You could make one out of a pencil, or whatever you like. Try to make it look fancy! Put your initials on the thick end, so it looks like the one in the RCM Museum!



Activity 2:

Listen to the 4x 'Exhibition Music' tracks. Decide on your favourite. Then, make up a tune, repeated riffs, a backing part or percussion beat to the track of your choice.

You can use any instrument you have, household objects, body percussion or your voice to make your music!

Here are some ideas that might work well for each track:

Idea one: Can you make the sounds into a rhythm or repeated pattern that goes with the track? For example, it might be four quick hits on a pan, then going 'shh shh' with your mouth, which you repeat.

Idea two: If you are playing an instrument that makes notes, try using the notes shown under the track heading to make up a tune or riff.

Idea three: Play the chords/notes listed shown under the track heading to a made up rhythm that fits to the track.

'Exhibition Music' tracks:

Busy looking around the Great Exhibition Music:

Try to think what sort of noises you might have heard at the Exhibition – machinery, clanking of metal items, water flowing in the fountain, people walking about, rustling of paper and fabric.

Notes for tunes or riffs: **A B C# D E F# G# A**

Notes for chords/notes: **A D A D A D A D**

Indian Exhibition Music:

Drums, bells, gongs will all sound good with this track!

Notes for tunes or riffs: **E F G A B C D E** (white notes- on a piano- from E to E)

Notes for chords/notes: **E**

Egyptian Exhibition Music:

Drums and shakers will sound good with this track!

Notes for tunes or riffs: **E F G# A B**

Notes for chords/notes: **E E D E E E D E**

United States Exhibition Music:

Drums and shakers will sound good with this track!

Notes for tunes or riffs: **G A B C D E F# G**

Notes for chords/notes: **G D G D G D A D**

Piano and violin players, you can use 'open fifths' – play the fifth note above as well, or rock back and forth between them:

With the G play a D With the D play an A With the A play an E

Activity 3:

The Great Museum Song: Play or sing along to the backing track

The RCM Museum is not able to be open at the moment, so we are doing our own version of the opening during this week, thinking about what it might be like to 'wake up' the museum, and what it will be like to be able to go back inside and see all the wonderful items.

This track is to celebrate the idea of opening the museum, so we want it to sound magical and exciting.

Some ideas:

1. Play a drum roll or a whoosh to start and end the song, or in other places!
2. Play a track of percussion or household objects along with the track.
3. Play the chords or a bass line with your own rhythm. Here are the chords for the song:

F F Bb C F F Bb C Dm Dm C C F C Dm C Bb C F

4. Make up a harmony part to the tune and play it on your instrument.
5. Make up short sections of playing that make it seem really lively and fun, like little fanfares or short tunes. Try thinking of playing in the gaps of the singing, like after the word 'doors' and 'beat'.

A score of the tune is included if that's helpful to you.