

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 Parisienne Pochettes

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

This amazing French Pochette from the RCM Museum has a hidden fan which comes out of the bottom!



The Dance Masters of France used to teach ladies and gentlemen fashionable dance routines and the language of the fans!

Activity 1: Watch the accompanying film 'The Parisian Pochette Performers'.

Activity 2: Create some music in the style of a 'Jig/Gigue' with the backing track

Information and ideas for the Music Activity

On the backing track you can hear the beat and chords of a 'Gigue' or 'Jig', in 6-8 time. This is a type of dance and it has a jolly, skipping feel.

You will also hear a few ideas for tunes that fit over the chords.
Have a go at playing along and making up your own dance tune or riff, or play along with the chords. See the next section for some ideas!
The backing track is in the key of **G Major** and uses the chords G Major, C Major and D Major. Here is the chord sequence:

MAIN SECTION: G / G / C D / G x 4

MIDDLE SECTION: C / G / C D / G / C / G / D / D

MAIN SECTION: G / G / C D / G x 2

These rhythms will sound good played over the track:



Use these notes of the G Major scale: G A B C D E F# G to make up a tune or short repeated section.

Activity 3: Make your own fan using an A4 sheet of paper.

Click here for fan making ideas. Dancing fans used to be decorated – see attached pictures to see how they used to look! Fill your fan with colour and characters, add sequins and feathers. Go wild! You can even draw funny faces on them!

Activity 4: Make up your own fan routine using your home-made fan

Look up the fan action for each word using the 'Language of the Fans' sheet attached.

Activity 5: Make a mask for a ball!

Click here for ideas.