

RCM Sparks Explorers

Singing the RCM Museum to Life Project

Sensational Music-making, Storytelling and Theatricality

The inspiration for this activity pack is based on items from the RCM Museum.

The Singing Suffragette

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



Ethel Smyth was a famous suffragette and composer. The RCM Museum has a collection of portraits of Ethel Smyth and some of her music.

Portrait by John Singer Sargent (1901)

Activity 1: Watch the accompanying film 'The Singing Suffragette'.

Activity 2: Make a suffragette banner

Use the suffragette colours of purple, green and white (see example below). OR think of a cause that you feel strongly about and make your own banner for your cause with your own slogan on it!



Activity 3: Write a song in the style of Ethel Smythe

What an amazing composer Ethel Smythe was, by using music to capture the spirit of the Suffragette movement!

The backing track for the Ethel Smythe day is a March! Just like her famous song, 'March of the Women!'.

Use the cause which you thought of when you made your banner.
Can you make up some lyrics for a song about your cause?

For example, if your cause was the Environment, you could write something like:

We want cleaner air for all!

Cycle, walk and move your feet,

Every small thing that you do,

Helps the people on your street!

Now you could try singing it over the backing track to make up your marching song!

You can also play over the March backing track. You can play a drum, shakers, or an instrument.

Maybe try these rhythms!:

