

The Can Can

Teacher Resources

Activities in this pack:



Information



Activity 3 **Create**



Activity 1 **Perform**



Activity 4 **Perform**



Activity 2 **Listen**



Activity 5 **Perform**

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Feel more

Introduction

The Can Can

This famous tune can be heard in many contexts – cartoons, dances and referenced in artworks. It is a high-energy, physically demanding dance that became a popular in the 1840s and continues in popularity in French cabaret to this day. It is traditionally associated with a chorus line of female dancers. The main features of the dance are the vigorous manipulation of skirts and petticoats, along with high kicks, splits, and cartwheels.

This famous dance tune was composed in the 1858 by Frenchman Jacques Offenbach. He wrote it for his operetta “Orpheus in the Underworld.”

The operetta (meaning a short opera) was a satire about Greek mythology, and “The Galop Infernal” is one of the final scenes of the play where the gods are having a wild party and galloping around the stage!





Play along with the Can Can

Follow the tune of the Can Can below while watching the notes. Play along with your Boomwhackers™ or other tuned percussion. [Click here for the video.](#)



- On the second and third playing ask the students to quietly clap the rhythm as they listen so that they can start internalizing the structure of the tune.
- What do you notice about the 2 lines of music? What is different?





Listen

Here is the whole Can Can piece:
[Offenbach - Can Can Music](#)

Here are some traditional Can Can moves:
[Watch some traditional Can Can dancers here.](#)





Do the Can Can!

The Can Can was considered very scandalous when it first became popular in Paris in the 1830s. There were attempts to suppress it and occasionally dancers were even arrested!

Here is how Tom and Jerry do the Can Can:

[WATCH HERE](#)

In groups of 4 using the music of the Can Can:

- Do some beat jumping while listening – making the size of your beat reflect the energy and volume of the music make up some actions that reflect the energetic nature of the Can Can.
- Now play Dance Freeze – have each group move to the music and randomly stop the sound. Each group needs to freeze in position until the music starts again.
- Make this a competition to see which group can give off the most energy whilst motionless.





Can Can Body Percussion

Learn this simple body percussion and perform it with the music.



Wait - Introduction (listen without making any movement)

Part 1

Clap Chest Stamp Rest x8

Part 2

Clap Clap Thighs Thighs Wave jazz hands for 4 beats x4

Wait - Bridge (listen without making any movement)

Part 3

Leg slap Leg slap Chest slaps Click Click Hand above head x8

Part 1

Clap Chest Stamp Rest x8

Part 3

Leg slap Leg slap Chest slaps Click Click Hand above head x8

Part 1

Clap Chest Stamp Rest x8



Classical Body Percussion

Easy movement following a rhythm score.
The actions and the rhythms are included in
the video: [CLICK HERE](#)