



Music Sparks

Junk Trunk



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A Note From CCC

Welcome to our Junk Trunk project, where musicians from the Children's Classic Concerts (CCC) Education Team will inspire you to make music at home or at school using everyday materials – time to rescue your recycling and invent your own instruments!

In this pack you'll find **films** talking you through some ideas (you can also watch them on the [CCC YouTube Channel](#)), but don't worry if you're working offline, as there are **step-by-step instructions** for making a variety of percussion, string and wind instruments right here.

Before you Begin:

- It's important that you clear a workspace such as a kitchen table or desk and protect it with a covering such as newspaper.
- Certain steps make use of tools or sharp objects, (you'll spot a warning sign ⚠) so please make sure there is a grown-up on hand to help – safety first!
- The project is for family and friends of all ages to join in with.

Meet our Musicians



Owen & Temma

Percussion

Anything you hit,
scrape or shake!



Una

Double Bass

String instrument
you pluck or bow.



Emma

Flute

Wind instrument
you blow across.

Materials to Collect

These items aren't a load of rubbish!

- ✓ Tin cans – usual soup/beans size, plus the half-size (and their lids)
- ✓ Plastic tubs of different sizes
- ✓ Plastic bottles
- ✓ Glass bottles
- ✓ Cardboard tubes (kitchen or toilet roll holders)
- ✓ Cardboard boxes
- ✓ Elastic bands or hair bobbles
- ✓ Anything else you want to try out!

Don't panic if you haven't quite got everything you're looking for, you can try a few things out to start with and then come back to your instrument-making anytime you like when you've collected more materials.

It's important to wash and dry your recycling thoroughly so that it looks and sounds better for longer.

Top Tips for Decorating

Raid the cupboards for anything that will help you put a stamp on your creations. Things like:

- ✓ White or coloured paper
- ✓ Pencils, crayons, pens
- ✓ Paint (acrylic paint works well on tin cans)
- ✓ Glitter or sequins
- ✓ Stickers
- ✓ Ribbons
- ✓ Pom-poms
- ✓ Pipe cleaners

Nothing needs to be complicated, but go nuts if you like! Be aware though, that how you choose to decorate might have an impact on the sound, so listen out for that – avoid dampening things too much.

You can also recycle your decorating materials! How about using wrapping paper cast-offs, magazine clippings or cutting out shapes from old greetings cards?

Read on for ideas that turn your junk into funk and feel free to show off what you come up with!
See **'Keep in Touch'** for ways to contact us.

Mini Drum Kit

▶ Watch the film with Jemma from 1:23

What you'll need:

- ✓ Plastic tubs of different sizes, or alternatively sturdy cardboard boxes of different sizes
- ✓ Dry spaghetti
- ✓ Tin can lids
- ✓ String
- ✓ Drill (for grown-up use only!)
- ✓ Rods/sticks
- ✓ Play doh or Blue tac
- ✓ Sticky tape or glue
- ✓ Ruler and calculator
- ✓ Your chosen decoration materials
- ✓ Something to play it with, such as chopsticks, pens or pencils



STEP ①

Have a rummage through the tubs/boxes you've got and test out the different sounds – you'll want a bit of variety. Bear in mind that **bigger = a lower pitch** and **smaller = a higher pitch**.

A standard drum kit has a bass drum (the biggest one, usually played with a foot pedal), snare drum (the narrowest in depth with a rattle sound), small tom-tom, medium tom-tom and floor tom (bigger than the medium, but smaller than the bass drum), so 5 drums in total, as well as some cymbals.

STEP ②

Decorate your tubs. To fully cover up any text etc. on your packaging, it's a good idea to use a paper collar, which wraps around and sticks down.

TIME FOR A BIT OF MATHS! To work out the amount of paper you need, you could measure the **height** of your tub, as well as the circumference to get the **length**. To calculate the circumference, you measure the diameter of the circle (bottom of the tub, which is the length of the line right across the centre, touching two points on its edge) and multiply by Pi $\pi = 3.14$

STEP ③

To create the slight rattling sound of the **snare drum** – loosely tape some dry spaghetti to the bottom of the tub, then turn the tub over to play.

Owen has recorded a great series of films from his percussion store that talks through a variety of drums and tuned percussion – check it out on the [CCC YouTube Channel](#).

STEP 4

Put your kit together!

Using the image as a guide, arrange your drums (the snare and floor tom can be freestanding, but tape or glue your small tom-tom and medium tom-tom on top of the bass drum). To support the bass drum, you can insert crayons or bits of twig to help with balance.

STEP 5

Create your cymbals.

△ Take a couple of tin can lids and drill two holes in the middle of each. Thread through some string and tie a knot to make a loop that you can hang your cymbals from. To build stands – take a rod/stick and snap into two pieces – one longer than the other to create the main structure and an arm that you tape to the top at a right angle. Place your stand into some Play-Doh or Blu Tack to form the base. Let it dry out to make it sturdier.

STEP 6

Grab your cutlery or stationery and **give it a bash!**



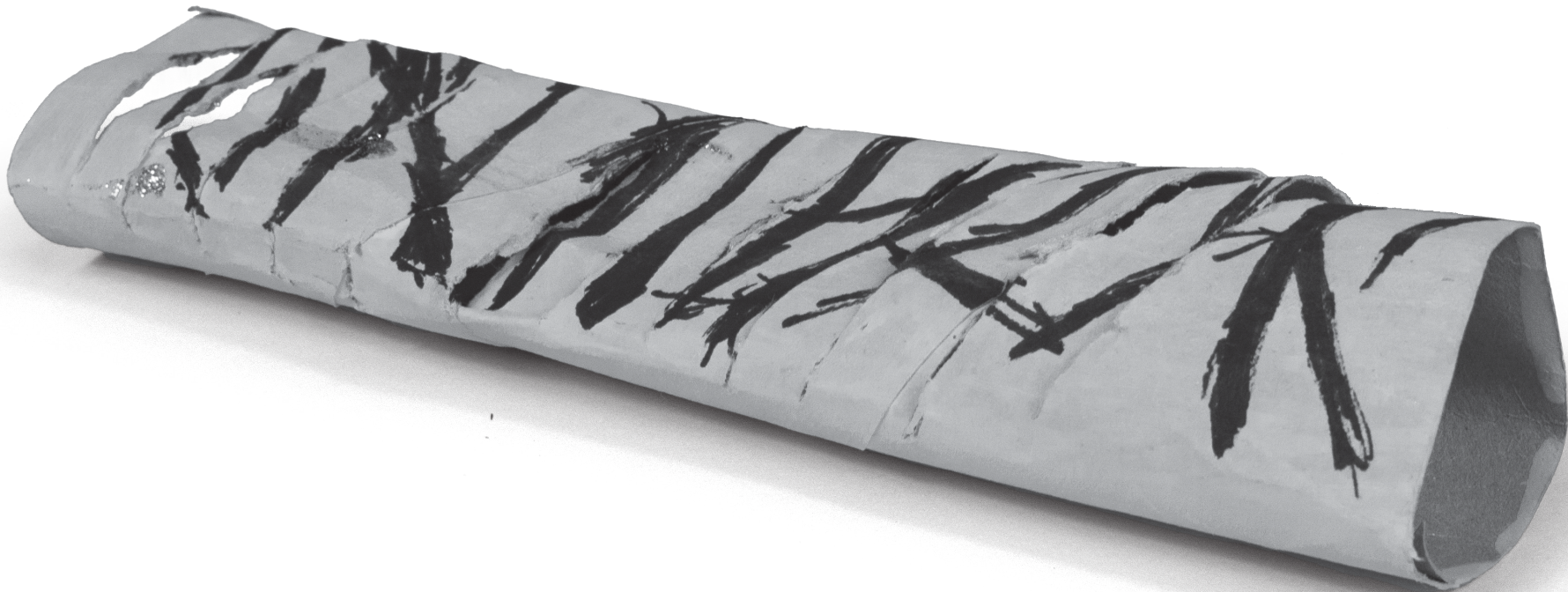
Güiro

▶ Watch the film with Jemma from 5:20

A güiro (pronounced *gwee-ro*) is a hand-held Latin American percussion instrument which is hollow and has parallel notches cut in. It's played by scraping up and down using a mix of long and short strokes. It can be made of wood, hard plastic, metal or fibreglass.

What you'll need:

- ✓ Cardboard tube – either a kitchen or toilet roll holder
- ✓ Paint or coloured pens to decorate
- ✓ Scissors or a craft knife
- ✓ Cutlery to play it with



STEP ①

Paint or **colour** the cardboard on both sides. Decoration for this instrument should be fairly basic on the 'playing side' as you don't want to interrupt the pattern of the notches with anything stuck on.

STEP ②

Once the decoration is dry, **cut slits** △ into the tube on one side, as evenly as you can make them, leaving about a centimetre gap between each, down the length of the tube. Rough up the edges of your slits to make the grooves clearer.

STEP ③

Time to play! Use some cutlery to scrape and create a cool güiro sound.

Handy hint

Tin cans are essentially ready-made güiros (with labels removed) as they have built-in ridges, so you can try scraping those, too. To make a tin güiro look nicer, don't be tempted to cover it in paper as you'll lose the effect!

Agogô Bells

▶ Watch the film with Jemma from 6:35



Agogô bells are a bit like cow bells of two different sizes. As they're made of metal they can be pretty loud(!), but they're lots of fun and are used in samba music – think Brazilian carnival...

What you'll need:

- ✓ 2 tin cans – 1 full and 1 half-size (no lids)
- ✓ 2 lollipop sticks
- ✓ Sticky tape
- ✓ Elastic band
- ✓ Paint (acrylic paint is best) or thin paper to cover the cans
- ✓ Other decorations, such as strips of coloured paper, pipe cleaners etc.
- ✓ Cutlery to play it with

STEP ①

Remove labels from the cans – soak in water and dry thoroughly.

⚠ **Warning, sharp edges.**
For safety, tape around the tops of the cans to avoid any injury!

STEP ②

Decorate. Paint the surfaces (acrylic paint sticks to cans really well and gives a nice finish) or cover in thin paper and tape or glue it down. Allow to dry.

Handy hint

Measure the label you take off so you know how much paper to use.

STEP ③

Agogô's assemble! Lay your cans on their sides, with the open ends facing you – make sure these are lined up. Tape a lollipop stick to the inside of each – again making sure that they match up. Bring the two lollipop sticks together and secure with tape. You can also wrap an elastic band around the cans to hold them in place.

STEP ④

Add more decoration... This is the instrument to splash out on in terms of how it looks. Try wrapping pipe cleaners tightly around a pencil to create a cool wave and tape them to the open ends of the cans. You can also use strips of coloured paper to make a fringe around the edges.

STEP ⑤

Make a noise! Use cutlery to tap the closed ends of the cans and try out some rhythms.

Shaker

▶ Watch the film with Jemma from 8:50



What you'll need:

- ✓ A small cardboard or plastic tub/ bottle, ideally with a lid
- ✓ Alternatively, 2 paper cups
- ✓ Funnel (optional)
- ✓ Dry ingredients from the kitchen cupboards (see Step 2)
- ✓ Sticky tape
- ✓ Decoration materials



STEP ①

This one is simple! Firstly, **decorate** your tub or bottle. If you're using 2 paper cups, make sure these are decorated first, too.

Handy hint

If you're using a clear plastic bottle to make your shaker, bear in mind that the contents can also be part of the decoration. For example, paint some macaroni using colours of the rainbow, or add glitter to some rice!

STEP ②

Gather a **selection of dry ingredients** from the kitchen and use some of each to **test out the sounds they make** in turn. It might be an idea to use a funnel to help fill your shaker and keep mess to a minimum. For example, you could choose rice, macaroni, lentils, oats, peppercorns etc. You don't need very much inside – around a quarter of the container is usually enough, but again, experiment with various levels as that will make a difference to the sound.

STEP ③

Once you've decided on your **favourite sound**, **seal your shaker** by taping the lid down, screwing the cap on the bottle, or placing 1 paper cup on top of the other and taping together in the middle.

STEP ④

Shake things up!

Glass Xylophone

▶ Watch the film with Jemma from 11:24

What you'll need:

- ✓ Glass bottles (with lids, if possible)
– collect as many as you can of the same size and shape
- ✓ Water and a jug
- ✓ Food colouring (optional)
- ✓ Metal teaspoon(s) to play with



STEP ①

⚠ As this involves glass, please make sure an adult is around to supervise.

Line up your bottles in a row – if you can find 8, that will give you an octave.

STEP ②

Use the jug of water to **fill them with a different level** in each. Experiment by adding/ taking away water and see if you can create a scale.

TIME FOR A BIT OF SCIENCE! When you tap the edge of a bottle with water inside, you create vibrations and soundwaves.

Lots of water = a deeper sound because the vibrations happen relatively slowly.

Less water = a higher sound because the vibrations are quicker. Be aware that if the bottles aren't the same size, they'll make different sounds from the start, even without water added, so take that into account.

STEP ③

Once you're happy with the way your bottles sound, you could **jazz things up a bit with food colouring**. If you've got **primary colours** (red, blue and yellow) then you can mix to create more! A rainbow effect looks great.

STEP ④

Put lids on if you have them to save any spillages. **Now take your spoons and make up a tune!**



Sensational Strings

▶ Watch the film with Una

Hear a home-made "**tea chest bass**" – basically, a wooden box, piece of string and a snooker cue and listen to the tuneful sounds of elastic bands and hair bobbles!



What you'll need:

- ✓ Old Tupperware or plastic food containers that have been washed and dried
- ✓ Elastic bands of different sizes and/or hair bobbles
- ✓ Decorations – stickers or glitter glue pens should work well

STEP ①

Gather a few containers that are various sizes so you can hear the difference between each.

STEP ②

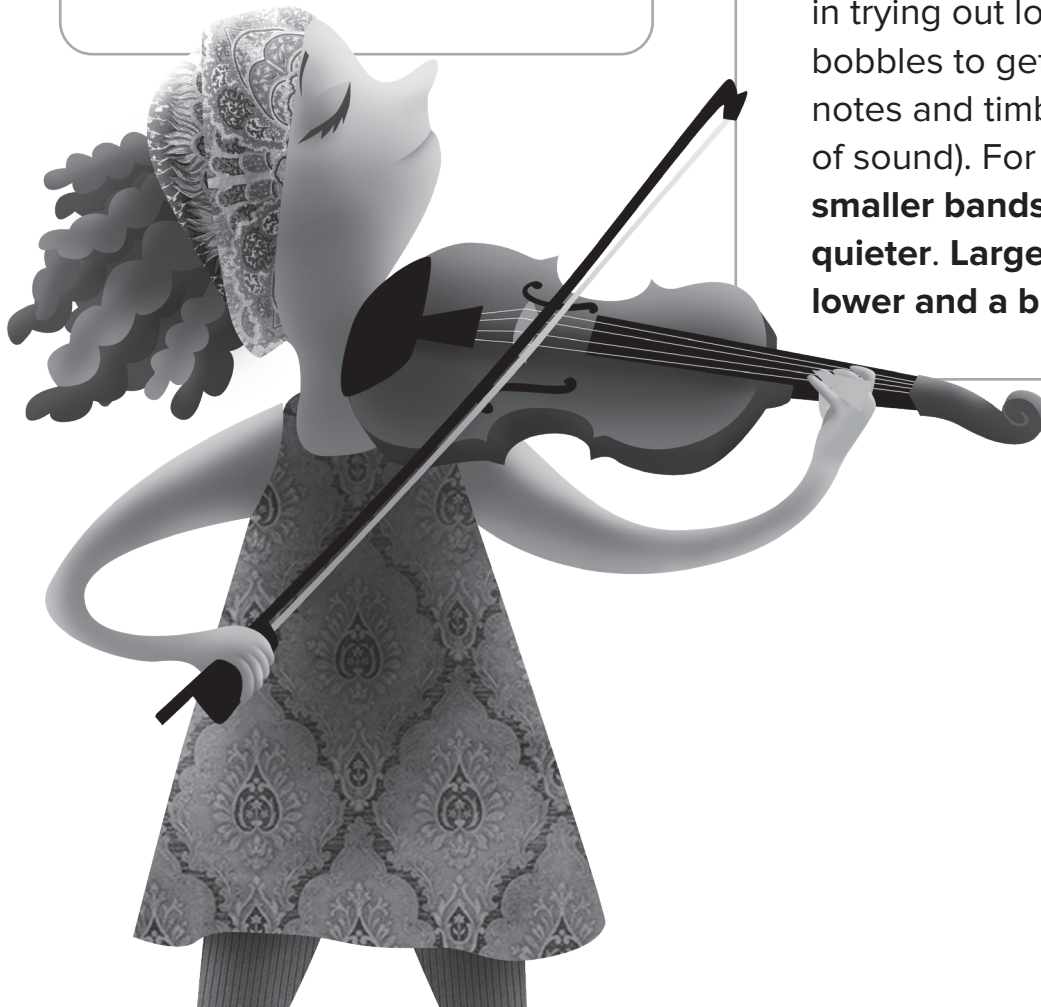
Take some **elastic bands** and wrap them around the middle – **ping them and have a listen!** The fun is in trying out lots of bands/bobbles to get different notes and timbres (quality of sound). For example, **smaller bands = higher and quieter. Larger bands = lower and a bit louder.**

STEP ③

When you've figured out the best combinations, remove the bands to **decorate your favourite container(s)** and place everything back together again.

STEP ④

Get funky – pluck your instrument and pick out some tunes. You can play more than one of these instruments at once and get everyone joining in!



Wonderful Winds

▶ Watch the film with Emma

Time to explore the world of wind instruments.

First of all, make sure that the materials you use are safe to blow into and put near your mouth – they **must be thoroughly clean!** There's some trial and error involved here, so see what sounds you can come up with based on the following:

EXPERIMENT ①

To try out your flute skills, grab some empty glass (or plastic) bottles (it's great if they're the same size and shape) and blow *across* the tops. Then add different amounts of water to test out how the sounds change. The smaller the space is between the water and the hole, the higher the note. So, **fuller bottles = higher notes** and **emptier bottles = lower**.

What you'll need:

- ✓ Glass or plastic bottles
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Metal pipe or plastic tubing
- ✓ Drill and ruler
- ✓ Cork stopper and toilet roll holder
- ✓ Balloon



EXPERIMENT ②

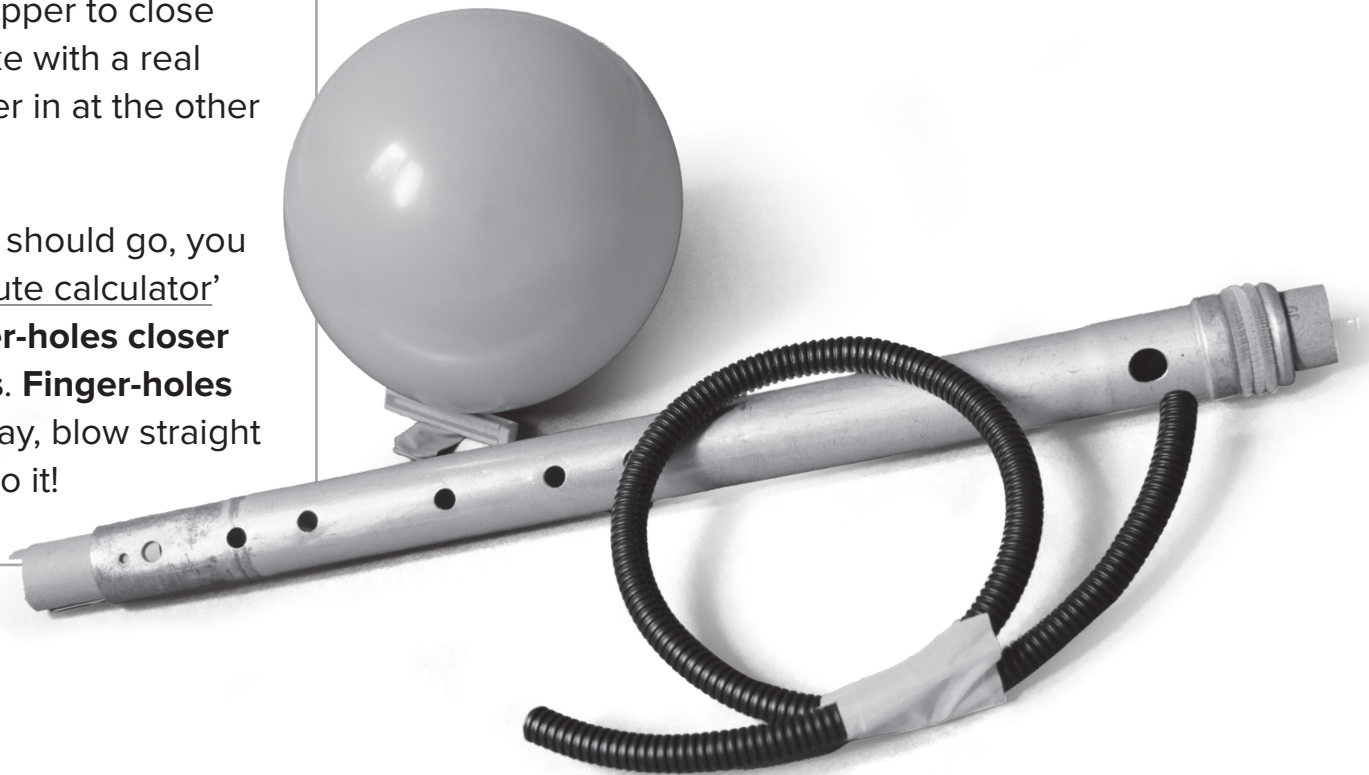
⚠ To make a “**floover**” as Emma demonstrates, (a flute made out of an old Hoover part!) or similar, you basically need a pipe which you drill a mouth-hole and finger-holes into (these should be smaller than the mouth-hole).

The tuning of your instrument depends on a few factors – the length and thickness of the pipe, the diameter of the holes and the distance between each of them. Try using a cork stopper to close the gap at the mouth-hole end (like with a real flute) and putting a toilet roll holder in at the other end so you can adjust the tuning.

To help work out where the holes should go, you can input measurements into a [‘flute calculator’](#) online! But, the basic idea is **finger-holes closer to the mouth-hole = higher notes. Finger-holes further away = lower notes**. To play, blow straight across the mouth-hole and not into it!

EXPERIMENT ③

Blow up a balloon to about half full and pinch it closed at the top with two sets of fingers. Now start gently pulling your fingers apart to release tiny amounts of air at a time and play around with how you stretch and relax the balloon – you’ll produce some funny effects!



Let's Jam!

Now you have some instruments, it's time to see what they can do. Play around and experiment with the different sounds, even better if you can team up with family and friends to experience them all together.

For some inspiration and to get in the groove, check out the CCC musicians' garbage band and join in! Owen will guide you through some rhythms you can try first, but don't worry, improvising (making it up!) is a great way to perform new music that's literally never been heard before, nor will be heard the same way again – pretty cool!

Watch the film with Owen...

To learn some percussion rhythms.



Watch the film with Owen, Una and Emma...

To join in with their Junk Trunk jam-session!



Keep in Touch

Thank you so much for your interest in CCC and for creating your own instruments!
If you're looking for ways to share what you've been doing, please find the details you need, below.
And, if you've enjoyed the process the great thing is, you can do it all again –
there's no end to the recycling fun!

 @CCCLoveMusic  @CCC_LoveMusic  childrensclassicconcerts  Children's Classic Concerts

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What to share:

Photos of your instruments
Recordings or videos of you playing them!



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