



ROYAL  
COLLEGE  
OF MUSIC  
*London*

# 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](http://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 Smyth**

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

The backing track for the Ethel Smyth 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!:

