

# Royal College of Music Museum

## Time Keepers - Group 2 Activity Pack

- Discover a musical Time Keeper
- Learn about an object from the Royal College of Music Museum
- Complete a Time Keeper challenge

# MISSION 1: Discover

## Who am I?

I am a Time Keeper.



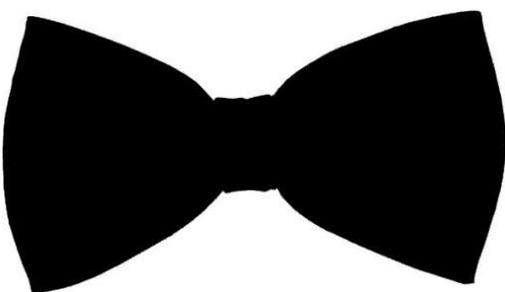
I stand on one of these.

This is called a **podium**. It's a special platform to raise this Time Keeper high above everyone else so they can be seen.



I read from one of these.

This is called a **musical score**. It's a book with music in it, showing what every instrument in the orchestra should be playing.



I sometimes wear a bow tie.

This is for special occasions like **musical concerts**.

### 1. Who am I?



Your Time Keeper is a **conductor**.

A conductor is a leader.

He or she beats time to help all the musicians play well together.

The musicians need to know when to start, what speed to go, and how loudly or quietly to play.

Being a good conductor is not easy! They have to know the music very well so that they can hear any wrong notes. They also have to imagine in their heads exactly how the orchestra should sound, and make it happen.

A conductor communicates using his hands. Sometimes he uses one of these sticks.



2. Do you know what it is called?

It is called a **baton**.

A baton just helps to draw attention to what your hand is doing.

## MISSION 2: Learn

In the Royal College of Music Museum, we have some very special batons that were once owned by famous conductors. Here's a story about Walter Parratt's baton.



Walter Parratt composed music and played the organ. He was an organ teacher at the Royal College of Music. He lived during the reign of Queen Victoria.

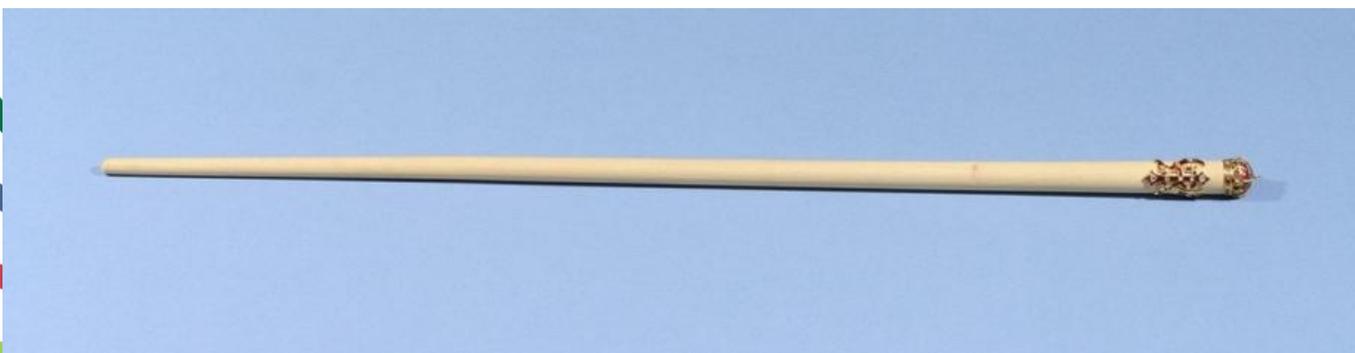
Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, died in 1861. The queen was very sad, and one of the only things that could make her feel better was music. She especially liked Walter Parratt's music, and she would summon him to the palace to play for her.

She was so grateful, that she made him a knight in 1892. Now he was Sir Walter Parratt! She also gave him the fancy title of 'Master of the Queen's Music.'

Sir Walter was fond of Queen Victoria too, and organised a special concert to celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Queen Victoria enjoyed it so much that she sent him a gift – a diamond encrusted baton to conduct with. If you look closely you can see her crown on the top of the baton and the initials V.R. This stands for Victoria Regina, which means Queen Victoria in Latin.

Today Sir Walter's beautiful baton lives at the Royal College of Music Museum!





## Quick quiz

(Find the answers at the end of the activity pack)

1. What is a conductor's job?

2. As well as their hands, what other tools do they use?

3. Which famous Queen gave Walter Parratt his beautiful baton?

4. What fancy title did the Queen give Sir Walter Parratt?

## MISSION 3: Challenge

Now it's your turn to be a Time Keeper!

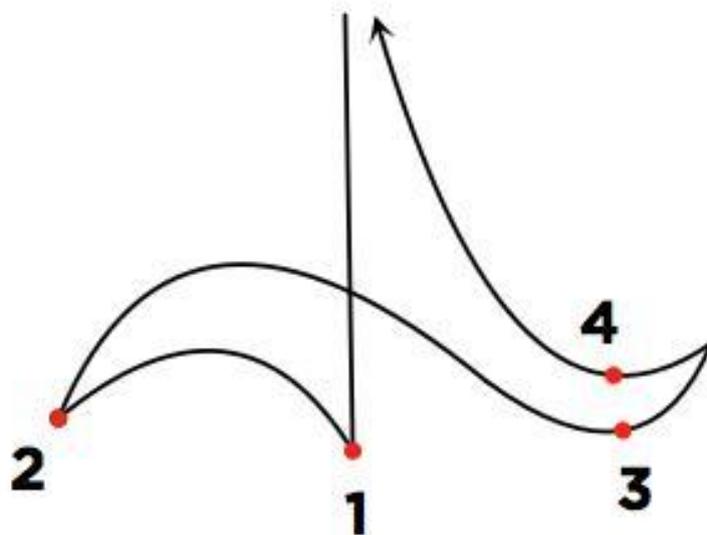
Learn how to conduct a simple 4/4 pattern. Use your dominant hand (right or left, whichever feels best) or hold a pencil to help.

See next page to learn the 4/4 pattern of hand gestures.

Start with gesture number one, then two, three and four.

4  
Move your hand back up to your eyes

2  
Move your hand  
across your body  
to the left



3  
Move your hand  
across your body  
to the right

1  
Move your hand from the height of your eyes  
down to your waist



Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdvHUI88tao> from 0:40 – 1:40.

### Quiz answers

A conductor beats time to help all the musicians in an orchestra to stay together. Conductors use a **baton** as well as their hands.

**Queen Victoria** gave Walter Parratt his beautiful baton.

His fancy title was **Master of the Queen's Music**.