

Song: Let's Face the Music and Dance (1935)

Songwriter: Irving Berlin

Brief Context: "Let's Face the Music and Dance" was written by Irving Berlin for the 1936 film *Follow the Fleet*. Fred Astaire plays a Navy sailor who tries to rekindle a romance with his former dance partner, played by Ginger Rogers. "Let's Face The Music And Dance" happens during a memorable scene in the film. Astaire uses the cautionary love song to woo Rogers into an elegant dance routine.

Activity: Movement (lower body)

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "Let's Face the Music and Dance" video**
- **Activity sheet**

Suggested Seated Movement

Let's get those legs and feet moving! Follow me! (Lead the following movement while seated)

- **Tap Your Toes**
- **Move Feet Side to Side**
- **One Foot at a Time: Lift Heel**

Keep moving your feet throughout until you see a new movement prompt on the video!



Song: Cheek to Cheek (1935)

Songwriter: Irving Berlin

Brief Context: "Cheek to Cheek" was written by Irving Berlin and featured in the Astaire-Rogers movie *Top Hat*. This was the second Berlin musical written for the popular pair of dancers. It describes the glorious feeling of dancing very close with a person you care for deeply.

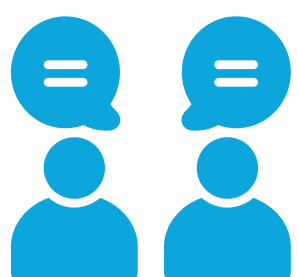
Activity: Singing and Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "Cheek to Cheek" video**
- **Lyric sheet**
- **Activity sheet**

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- **When you were younger, would you use to go dancing?**
 - **Did you dance by yourself or with a partner?**
 - **Where did you dance?**



**Song: The Best Things Happen
While You're Dancing (1951)
Songwriter: Irving Berlin**

Brief Context: This dance number is from one of the most popular holiday films of all time, "White Christmas." Dance Magazine sets the scene: "In 'The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing,' Vera Ellen and Danny Kaye float their way through a lush scene of tropical plants and palm trees. The number starts as a romantic and wistful slow dance, the fabric of Ellen's chiffon dress swaying with her every move. But it soon evolves into much more complicated choreography: partnered turns, a daring dip, moments of playful syncopation mixed with traveling unison steps."

Activity: Visual and Listening Experience with optional discussion

What do you need?

- "The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing" video clip
- Activity sheet

Suggested Discussion Prompts

Many people have fond memories of watching holiday movies like, "White Christmas." This dance scene is one of the greatest moments in the movie! After watching Vera-Allen and Danny Kaye dance, ask your partner(s) these questions:

- How did you feel watching them dance?
- What was your favorite part of this dance scene?
- Would you ever dance like this with a partner?



The Great American
Songbook Foundation
Michael Feinstein, Founder

Song: Shall We Dance from "The King and I" (1951)

**Songwriters: Richard Rodgers &
Oscar Hammerstein II**

Brief Context: "Shall We Dance?" is from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, *The King and I*. In this scene, the King of Siam has just hosted a successful dinner for a group of English diplomats and their wives. The King has a moment alone with his children's governess, Anna, who attempts to explain certain Western customs. Recalling what it's like for a girl at her first dance, she performs a polka (like a waltz), but then the King insists that she teach him to dance with her.

Activity: Rhythm

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "Shall We Dance" video**
- **Activity sheet**

Suggested Seated Movement

This song is a waltz, which means you'll feel the music in three beats. Our rhythm suggestions will help your partner feel the beat like the King of Siam.

- **Clap "1 - 2 -3" with the leader of this video.**
- **Example: Shall we dance? (clap) 1 - (clap) 2 - (clap) 3**



*The Great American
Songbook Foundation*
Michael Feinstein, Founder

Song: Dancing Queen (1975)

Musical Group: ABBA

Brief Context: ABBA's song "Dancing Queen" is arguably the world's first europop disco hit. Lead vocalist Agnetha Faltskog said this of the song: "It's often difficult to know what will be a hit. The exception was 'Dancing Queen.' We all knew it was going to be massive." The track details a young girl dancing and enjoying her young and carefree life.

Activity: Movement (upper body)

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Dancing Queen" video
- Activity sheet

Suggested Seated Movement

**Let's see all of our dancing queen's and king's moves!
Sing along and follow me!**

- Shimmy (move shoulders up and down)
- Wave arms side to side
- Move along with the leader in this video, or improvise movement with your partner(s). Prompt your dancers
- to follow you or mimic the movements they create!



The Great American
Songbook Foundation
Michael Feinstein, Founder