

# ▷▷ music for GCSE dance

A FREE RESOURCE to guide you through the Dancesounds catalogue and identify the relevant CDs for your purposes. This guide will help you make the right choice of CDs and offer you a wide selection of music to see your students through the GCSE course. All CDs mentioned are available to purchase on the Dancesounds website at [www.dancesounds.co.uk](http://www.dancesounds.co.uk)

## getting started

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▷ Every teacher has favourite music for warm up but it can also reinvigorate a class to start a new term with a new CD. Dancesounds has a wide range of music CDs especially composed for dance, which include the full spectrum of music for gentle warm up, muscle-warming stretching, strengthening floorwork and energetic travelling. You will also find plenty of imaginative music to inspire improvisation and help students express themselves meaningfully through their choreography.

### Volume 8: Creative Workshop by Paul A. Jackson

This is a good all round, introductory CD giving a good idea of the range and style of the Dancesounds CDs. It features a mix of music with constant time signatures and dynamics suitable for class, including cool down, tracks for improvisation and tracks for creative work. Not everyone can choreograph a full 3:00 minutes so we have included 2:30 minutes edits of the choreography tracks at the end to suit examination criteria and different abilities.

## technique class and warm up

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▷ From warm up to cool down, we have a CD for every step of the way.

### Volume 2: Classwork by Paul A. Jackson

This CD features 11 tracks between 5:00 and 6:00 minutes long composed for class. Structured around a suggested class format and with constant beats and dynamics, the music is suitable for a contemporary technique class and general warm up exercises. With tracks for floorwork, footwork, limbering, upper body and leg exercises, followed by travelling and cool down, this is a lively and upbeat CD guaranteed to re-energise students first thing in the morning or after a holiday break. Includes one bonus performance track suitable for large group choreography.

### Volume 6: Percussion by Paul A. Jackson

Funky and upbeat, you can really get your students moving across the floor with this CD. Includes a variety of percussion, time signatures and beats, and sounds ranging from 'found' sounds and body percussion to traditional percussion instruments. We

challenge you to witness your students shake off the post-lunch sloth with this invigorating collection of contemporary and lively tracks. Particularly good for upbeat travelling sequences.

### Ethereal by Jeremy Nasta

A mellow and lyrical collection of music, suitable for a contemporary, Cunningham- or Graham-style technique class, featuring acoustic piano, percussion, marimba, antique cymbals, bass and occasional voice. Tracks are constant time signatures and dynamics so are ideally suited to floorwork, limbering, swing and sway type warm ups, plus some tracks suitable for travelling sequences.

### Music for Contemporary Class CD 1: Floor/Centre and CD 2: Travelling Steps by Philip Taylor

Here are two companion CDs for class, featuring clean rhythms and mix of percussion and simple melodies. CD 1 includes multiple tracks for bounces, footwork, floor combinations, plies, swings and jumps and CD 2 concentrates on triplets, travelling and wind down.

## practical examination

▷ With the practical element of the GCSE examination now weighted at 80%\* it is more important than ever that candidates make appropriate accompaniment choices for their Solo, Duo and Group choreographies. Many of our CDs include tracks of the correct length, many of them featuring changes in dynamics, allowing students to showcase different qualities of movement and sensitivity to musical elements.

We also recognise that the aural accompaniment for a dance is more than just a good rhythm or melody. Many of the tracks featured on our CDs include elements of song, spoken word, natural or found sound, body percussion and music in different styles, representing different times and geographical places.

Because all our music is composed especially for dance, you will find that tracks for choreography have a clear beginning, middle and end, often featuring a climax or change in dynamic. This helps students structure their dance in a logical way and in many cases avoids the need for fiddly and time-consuming editing together of different tracks. When planning the next CD we also keep in mind choreographic devices such as motif development, transitions, repetition and highlights so that our music often will guide the choreographer in the development of their dance ideas in a structured way. Of course we also have plenty of abstract tracks for more innovative minds.

### Volume 1: Choreography by Paul A. Jackson

A favourite among GCSE teachers, this CD features 12 out of 15 tracks of exactly 3:00 minutes in length, with world music sounds and a mix of styles, drumbeats and time signatures. The three remaining tracks are 7:00 minutes plus, and are suited to longer

choreographic tasks, perhaps for an end-of-year performance. When composing this CD, Paul kept in mind the need for students to showcase different stylistic ranges and was also focused on providing a clear structure. Many of the tracks therefore have a change in dynamic and a clear beginning, middle and end, with just one or two more abstract, free form pieces for variety. This is a great 'listening to' CD as well as being suitable for dance so it stands the test of repeated listening in rehearsal.

### Volume 4: Solos and Groups by Paul A. Jackson

As the title suggests, this CD was created specifically with solos and groups in mind, not to forget duos! Ten of the tracks are between 1:00 and 2:00 minutes, five between 2:00 and 3:00 minutes and the remaining two tracks, 3:00 minutes plus. Inspiration for the CD was varied, so the track listing ranges from the cool, seventies style *Cop Out*, to the spiritual Eastern Hero, to the atmospheric *Time Travelling*, the folky *Campfire* and to the percussive *Outer Shell*, an upbeat track with rhythmic hand claps and what we like to call 'a good beat'. That's just a snapshot; this eclectic CD is another favourite with GCSE students and invaluable at exam time. A CD that does what it says on the tin.

### Volume 7: Composition by Paul A. Jackson

Featuring 10 tracks just inside the 3:00 minute mark this is another essential for duo and group choreography tasks and was composed specifically with this in mind. The track-listing includes *Earth Dragon*, *City Drifter*, *Back Street*, *Colony* and *Factory Floor*; all the tracks feature clear structure with a variety of dynamics and textures. By turns cool and funky, atmospheric and pensive, upbeat and energetic, there's plenty of choice at exam time.

\*Based on the AQA GCSE Dance specification for teaching Sept '09

**Volume 10: One Minute Thirty by Paul A. Jackson**

Another CD that does what it says on the tin, the title says it all. What more can we tell you? Twenty tracks of exactly 1:30 minutes, a pretty good length for solo composition and created with that in mind. This CD encompasses a variety of styles including classical chamber and orchestral to contemporary pop, dance and funk, and features different time signatures, textures and themes with a mix of traditional and original sounds. Because the CD was composed for solos none of the pieces are too

overwhelming for a solo dancer. Paul always bears in mind that music for dance should be an accompaniment, which has a subtle difference to what we think of as 'stand alone' music.

**Choreography Volume 1 by Michael Price**

Twenty-five favourite tracks from the popular Music for Contemporary Dance Series edited down to around the 1:30 minute mark for choreography. Features a wide range of powerful, evocative musical styles in Michael Price's trademark filmic style.

**special offer** Dancesounds Volumes 1,4,7 and 10 are available at a special discount price when purchased together. Please quote **GCSE Starter Set** on your order form or see our Special Offers page on the website [www.dancesounds.co.uk/specialoffers.htm](http://www.dancesounds.co.uk/specialoffers.htm) for other deals.

**and finally...**

▷ Whilst we concentrate essentially on music for contemporary dance style, dotted amongst the tracks on our CDs you will find music for different dance styles such as Ballet, Tap, Street, Jazz or Folk. Also please watch this space for Bhangra, Bollywood, Hip Hop and more!

Please bear in mind that this list of music for GCSE is not exhaustive, we have other CDs which you may find parts or all are suitable for GCSE. We just picked out an obvious selection here to get you started and the rest is for you to enjoy discovering yourself. Please do visit our website at

[www.dancesounds.co.uk](http://www.dancesounds.co.uk) and check out all our great CDs, this really is just a small selection.

We also pride ourselves on being more than just a catalogue and so offer a personal service, often going out of our way to provide exactly the right piece of music. Whether this involves a spot of editing together or simply advice on which tracks to use for which purpose, we welcome all enquiries and will do our best to help you match the right piece of music to your dance task, no matter how big or small. And finally, we wish you and your students the greatest success with GCSE Dance! ■