

Cécilia

Teacher Resource Guide Lotus Blossoms 2026



About Cécilia

The music of Cécilia is a celebration of Canadian culture, blending French-Canadian (Québécois) and Celtic traditions. These styles of music were brought to Canada hundreds of years ago by settlers from France, Ireland, and Scotland. Cécilia is a trio of master musicians who keep history alive by playing traditional folk music that is fast, energetic, and meant for dancing!

The band features three special instruments that work together as a team. First is the accordion, played by Timi Turnel. It uses a bellows (which looks like a folding fan) to push air through metal reeds to make a bright, cheery sound. Next is the fiddle, played by Louis Schryer. While it looks just like a violin, it is called a "fiddle" when it is used to play fast folk tunes that make people want to tap their feet. Finally, there is the piano, played by Erin Leahy. She provides the "heartbeat" of the music with strong rhythms and chords. Together, they create a sound full of "joie de vivre", a French phrase meaning "the joy of life", showing how different cultural traditions can mix to create something brand new and exciting!

Instruments

Fiddle (Violin)

The violin is probably the best-known and most widely distributed musical instrument in the world. The violin and the fiddle are actually the same instrument. The term violin is often associated with orchestras and classical music. The fiddle is associated with a wide variety of styles including folk, bluegrass, Cajun, and country music. To make sound, the bow is drawn across the strings, which causes them to vibrate. This vibration is transmitted through the bridge to the soundboard, which then amplifies the sound through the holes on the front of the violin.





Diatonic Button Accordion

The button accordion belongs to the reed organ family of wind instruments. When you press the buttons and move the bellows back and forth, the air inside the instrument vibrates the reeds, producing sound. The accordion became popular in folk music and

dancing because it can play both a melody and chords at the same time, producing sound. The name “diatonic” comes from the fact that every button plays two notes, depending on the direction you move the bellows.

Cross Culture Collaboration

Podorythmie (po-do-rith-mee)

Podorythmie is a special way of tapping your feet to create music. In Québécois and Acadian culture, musicians don't just play instruments with their hands; they use their feet to create a beat like a drum! This is a type of percussion where the performer hits their feet on the floor or a special wooden board to make a loud, clicking rhythm. This is very popular during fast fiddle songs. To make the best sound, performers often wear shoes with wooden heels or special metal taps so everyone can hear the "heartbeat" of the music while they play.



Québécois Music

Québécois music is a unique mix of many different cultures that came together over hundreds of years. In the early 1800s, over a million immigrants, many of them from Ireland, Scotland, and France, arrived at the ports of Quebec City and Montreal. These families brought their favorite upbeat fiddle tunes and jigs with them. As they settled in Canada, their Celtic traditions mixed with the French songs already there. This created a brand-new "fusion" of sound that you can still hear today in Cécilia's music!

By the late 1800s, this special style of music was very popular. The fiddle became the most important instrument, followed closely by the accordion. One of the most famous parts of this music is the chansons à réponse (call-and-response songs). These are songs where a lead singer sings a line and everyone else sings it back! These songs are so old that even the voyageurs, who traveled in giant canoes to trade furs, used to sing them to stay in rhythm. Because many of these songs were played at parties in small kitchens, musicians developed podorythmie, tapping their feet to the beat while sitting down, to provide a beat for the dancers.

Fun Facts

Canada

- Capital: Ottawa
- Official Languages: English and French
- Currency: Canadian Dollar
- Population: 41.2 Million



For more information about Cécilia visit:

- Website: [Cécilia](#)
- Facebook: [Cécilia](#)
- YouTube: [Cécilia](#)

Activities

Word Find

N O D A H S U P M G B Y I N B
S J D C K D L D M O N J F T C
G B B C E J T O F B G E O R M
M Q X O W D F W J C L X L S X
M Q T R L P Q Z W W R N K S Q
W M N D L H K D B E P W B I S
Z Y Q I F I D D L E T C N N A
N X U O P E K L H Z C E N C Z
B C E N N P D B K L V L A A G
K X B Q U G C Q H C B T P N O
Q X E Z M S L U U K U I L A U
H I C X U Z X C O I D C J D I
T H O H S Q H J A Y L W R A P
I T I C I I E N M E L O D Y J
G S S J C S G R V A W C L O K

ACCORDION

CANADA

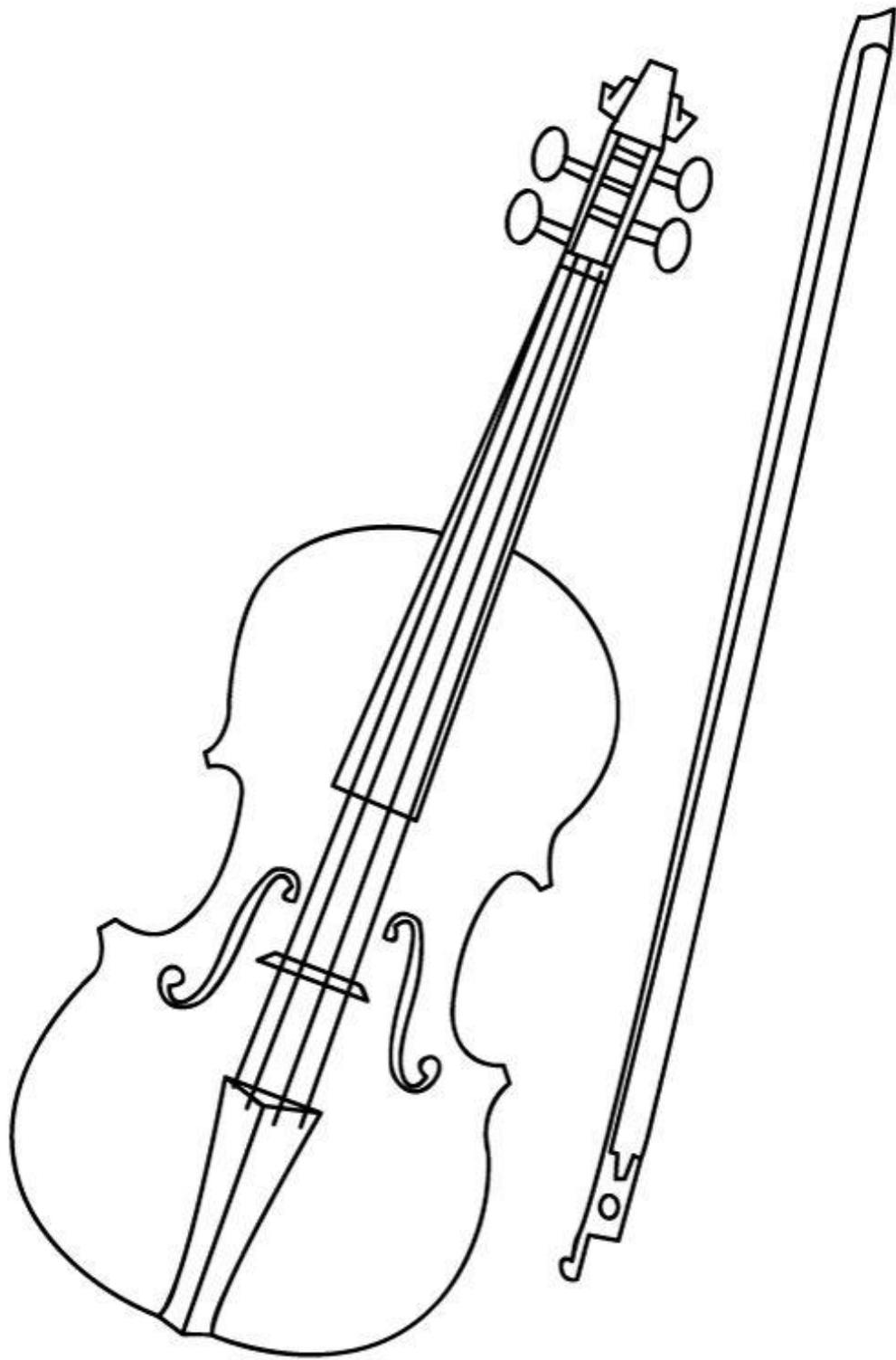
CELTIC

FIDDLE

FOLK

MUSIC

QUEBECOIS



Podorythmie



Use the music below (or your own music) and see if you can tap your feet to the music in an interesting way! Try to dance AND tap your feet to the beat.

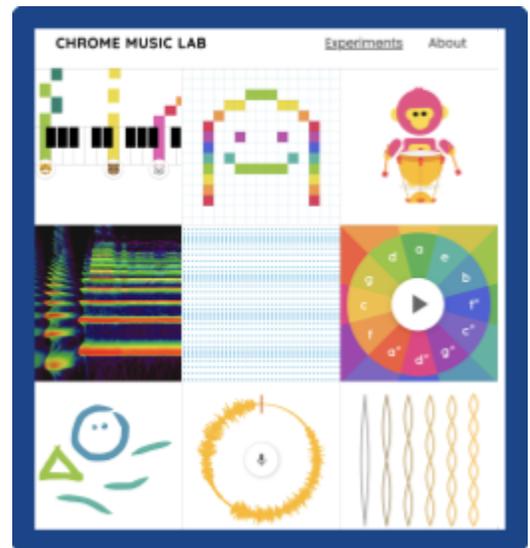
Music to dance to - [▶ Podorythmie](#)

Podorythmie - [▶ La Bottine Souriante - Podorhythmie \(Place des Arts 2012\)](#)

STEAM Activity - Chrome Music Lab

See Sound in Action!

Chrome Music Lab is a free, web-based collection of interactive experiments that makes music more accessible and fun to learn. It uses hands-on, visual activities to help users explore concepts like rhythm, pitch, and chords.



Visit:

musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Experiments

No need to create an account or download an app, only an internet browser is needed to access Chrome Music Lab. Chrome Music Lab also works on tablet devices.

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