

Suggested activities for *Brahms Hungarian Dance No. 1*

Dance Improvisation: Create an improvisation session where participants move freely to the music, focusing on responding to the changes in rhythm and intensity throughout the dances.

Story Behind the Dance: Imagine that each dance tells a different story. Brahms' music evokes a sense of place and emotion. Have participants create their own stories or short skits inspired by the themes in the dances—perhaps a story set in Hungary, or an imaginary narrative based on the mood shifts of the music.

Collaborative Storytelling: Create a story that represents the themes of the *Hungarian Dances*. What happens during the fast, high-energy sections versus the slower, more emotional ones? This could work as a group storytelling exercise, where different people take turns to add to the story based on the music.

Music Appreciation Session: Hold a listening session with the *Hungarian Dances* and ask participants to identify different musical elements—tempo changes, key shifts, and rhythm patterns—that evoke the "Hungarian" spirit

Dynamic Listening: Explore dynamics and tempo. Split the group into sections (for example, one for the fast, energetic parts and one for the slow, lyrical parts). As the music plays, each section could experiment with different dynamic ranges—loud versus soft, fast versus slow—and explore how they make the music feel different.

Rhythmic Exercise: Since rhythm is a central feature in Brahms' *Hungarian Dances*, you could create a rhythmic workshop where participants learn clapping or drumming exercises in the rhythm of the dance. This would work particularly well for No. 1, which has a distinctive rhythm and lively pace.

Instrument Exploration: If you have access to different instruments, explore how various instruments (piano, violin, orchestra) bring out the character of each dance. Discuss how Brahms' use of orchestration creates different colors and textures throughout the pieces.

Links to listen to the *Hungarian Dance no. 1*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyeb4R52p2Q&pp=ygUaQnJhaGFtcyBodW5nYWlhbiBkYW5jZSAxLTM%3D>