

# RCM Sparks Explorers

## Singing the RCM Museum to Life Project

### Sensational Music-making, Storytelling and Theatricality

The inspiration for this activity pack is an item from the RCM Museum.

A M... C... e... A... e... G ee e



## The story from King Midas as depicted on the virginal

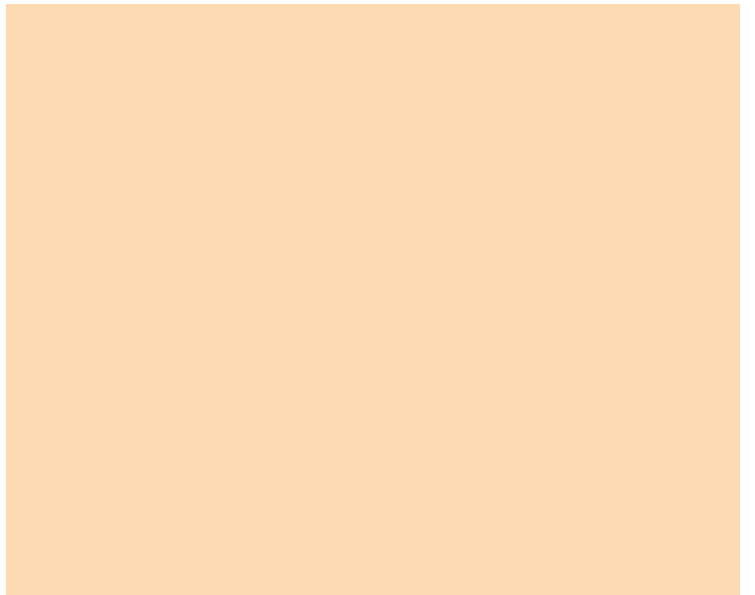
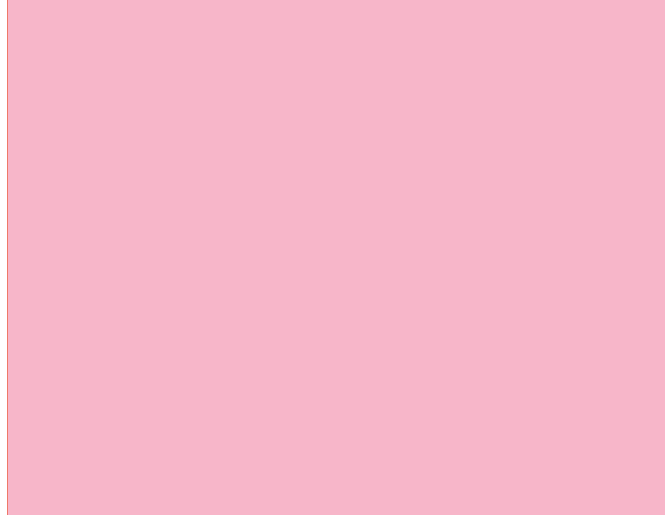
Welcome to ancient Greece, I am King Midas. The first picture that you can see is of a virginal, a keyboard instrument in the harpsichord family which is now in the museum of the Royal College of Music.

Virginals were often highly decorated with stories! If you look at the close-up second picture you will see two gods, Apollo and Pan. They are both sitting on rocks, playing instruments in a forest and a King is standing behind them.

That King is me! And that picture tells the story of A Music Competition!

Imagine it – we are in the forest and it is a warm sunny day in ancient Greece, the perfect day for music! Gods and mortals and animals have gathered together for a concert when suddenly Pan, god of nature, challenges Apollo, god of music, to a music competition! Everyone in the forest gathers to watch.

Pan played on his pipes and Apollo in his lyre. I was so struck by Pan's raw and rustic music that I declared in front of everyone that Pan's music sounded better than Apollo's.... Uh-oh... Why did I do it! Apollo was so infuriated with me that he turned to me, his face glowing with anger, and he said: 'Since your ears can play such tricks on you then you will now have donkey ears for the rest of your life!'



Here are some ideas to help you:

On a tuned instrument, you could play a D in every D Minor bar, and a C in every C Major bar

On a piano or guitar you could play the chords D Minor and C Major on these bars.