

Dance Notation Group Activity | Group Members:

The back of this worksheet features an example of a notated dance ("The Washerwoman's Branle") recorded by Thoinot Arbeau in 1589. Based on our knowledge of music notation and how it developed over time, discuss the following questions as a group, summarize your answers, and be ready to share your findings with the class.

I recommend using Google Translate to help understand the dance notation. <u>You are not expected to translate the entire page</u>, since many words are difficult to decipher. Keep in mind that "u" looks like "v" and "s" can resemble "f".

(**Note to Instructor:** You can trim the number of questions based on the time you have available in class; here's a link to a danced performance of "The Washerwoman's Branle" that you can show the class following the activity: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tP-lsaPxxbg)

1. I have divided this example with three separate rectangles. For each column of the notation, describe what kind of information the author is giving you.

2. How would someone use this notation to learn "The Washerwoman's Branle"? Are the columns read separately or together? How would the process compare to modern music notation?

3. In your group's opinion, what are some strengths and weaknesses to this system of notation?



Air de cebrant Gist I I	e. Mouvements Licelay	
李·美国李林文学 第一等。	pied largy gaulche. pied droitapproché. pied largy gaulche.	Ces quatre pas font vn double a gaulche.
	pieds ioinas. pied gaulche approche pied largy droit. pied largy droit. pieds ioinas. pied largy gaulche. rieds ioinas. Pied largy droit. Pieds ioinas. Pied largy droit. Pieds ioinas. Pied largy gaulche. Pied droit approché. Pied largy gaulche. pieds ioinas.	Ces quatre pass font vn double a droit. Darant ces deux simples les semmes setiennent par les menacent du doigt. Gala repetition desdits deux simples, les hommes se preignent par les coussez. Gles semmes les menacent. Pendant ce double a gaulche, tous les danceurs sont un bruit de leurs mains frappees s'ene sur s'aultre.

[&]quot;The Washerwomen's Branle," page from Thoinot Arbeau's Orchesography.