

# Tambourine round

## Music

30 minutes

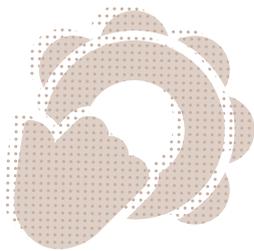
### You will need:

One big, good-quality tambourine, with a drum skin and jingles

## Large groups



Physical  
Interactive  
Inclusive



There is nothing like a tambourine round to focus a group of people and bring their attention into the here and now. It is suitable for everyone and can be repeated and practised for as long as the participants are enjoying it.

### To prepare:

Set out the space where you will be doing your activity so that everybody can sit in a circle. The activity could be a warm-up for something bigger but works well on its own too.

As the leader of this activity, you will need to choose a widely known song to use, e.g. *She'll be coming round the mountain*, *Michael, row your boat ashore*, *Bring me sunshine* or another song that you think your group will know and enjoy. It can help to choose your song before your group arrives.

### To begin:

Once everybody is comfortably seated, move to the middle of the circle where you can stand or crouch down. Sing the tune of the song without the words, just using 'la-la' or 'da-da'.

Emphasise your singing with single, slow beats on the tambourine at regular, prominent places in the song, e.g. the first beat in every bar. A big playing gesture helps to give a visual cue.

### Then:

Once the tune is established and in people's heads (some participants might join in with the singing), go up to each person in the circle and hold out the tambourine for them to beat one beat in the string of beats. You can play every other beat yourself; this will guarantee the momentum/pulse.

Offer the tambourine to the people in the circle in order or randomly across the circle, 'surprising' someone who doesn't expect their turn!

Depending on the group, members may like to take a turn in the centre being the leader. You could also invite the group to choose another song to use and create a round.

### Remember:

The fun of this activity is to keep the regular pulse of the music going as a group, using a familiar tune as a guide. This doesn't mean that the music and singing can't also 'wait' for someone's beat, should they take a bit longer; be patient and give people space to take their turn.

### Credit:

Manchester Camerata:  
Music in Mind.