

Ballet Class Activities

Ballet 1A, 1B, 2, and 3

Video Playlist: [Paquita](#)

Ballet Class Music: [Piano Music for Classical Ballet Variations: Sleeping Beauty and Paquita](#) by Nina Miller

Orchestral Music: [Minkus: La Bayadere / Paquita](#)

Gypsy Dancing

Act I of Paquita opens with a group of gypsy girls dancing in the town square. Have your students pretend they are dancing Gypsies as well! They can do this in traveling turns or spring points (petit allegro for Ballet 1A and 1B). Optional: Give each student a tambourine to dance with.

Children's Procession

After Paquita saves the life of a French officer (whom she falls in love with) and discovers she is actually of noble birth, the two are married. There's a great celebration, which includes a children's procession.

First, review the waltz or mazurka steps (depending on your student's level) and balancé.

Walking the Pattern

Next, have your students partner up and stand in a line to "enter" upstage stage left. First, they'll walk the floor pattern with ballet walks. Partners should always look at each other as they are walking side-by-side:

- Students will walk across the back of the room and down the center.
- Once they've made a line down the center of the room, they'll separate. The stage left side will walk stage left. The stage right side will walk stage right.
- Then they'll walk, coming back together as a line in the center of the room.
- Next, the two columns come down through the center of the stage, walk around to stage left, to upstage and then make a line across the back of the room.
- The line should do four step-side-and-curtisies here.
- The line should walk forward to the front of the room.
- Finally, the line should do four more step-side-and-curtisies.

Have your students do the above for a class or two, until they are comfortable with the floor pattern.

Adding Steps

Once your students are comfortable with the floor pattern and have worked on waltz or mazurka and balancé, adapt the processional combination to the following:

Ballet 1A and 1B: Walk or step-brush for the first half of the combination. Replace the four curtsies with balancés. Waltz in place of walking forward. Replace the final four curtsies with balancés.

Ballet 2: Waltz in place of all walks. Replace all of the curtsies with balancés.

Paquita

Ballet 3: Walz in place of the initial walks. Replace the curtsies with balancés. Replace the final walks forward with a mazurka step. Replace the last curtsies with balancés.

Your Ballet 3 class may also be ready to try the original choreography for this dance. [You can view it in this video](#), if you'd like to adapt the combination further, or would like to make a study out of the dance, learning the choreography.