

Ballet Class Activities

Ballet 1A, 1B, 2, and 3

Video Playlist: [Don Quixote](#)

Ballet Class Music: [Don Quixote 2 for Ballet Class \(Barre\)](#) and [Don Quixote 2 for Ballet Class \(Centre\)](#) by Katsumi Etoh

Orchestral Music: [Minkus: Don Quixote](#)

Barcelona Square

Don Quixote is an exotic tale of comedy, chivalry, festivity, dreams, and love. It really has it all! The ballet's first act opens in a square in Barcelona, Spain. Kitri professes her love for Basillio. Basillio, a barber, loves her in return, but he is not a rich man. Kitri's father has different plans for her. He wants her to marry a wealthy man. None-the-less, the two lovers (Kitri and Basillio) lead the crowd in festive dancing and merriment.

Have your students do a balancé, waltz, or mazurka (or preparation for any of these, depending on their level) combination as villagers in the town square. Once they have the step/combination down, ask your students how they would dance as festive villagers in a crowd? Would they be happy and celebratory? (Yes!) Or sad and sullen? (Probably not!) Encourage your students to dance the combination happily—with both their faces and their bodies.

The Dream

Later in the ballet, Don Quixote has a dream of nymphs and cupids. In this dream, he is a knight. Kitri is also in his dream, although he is dreaming of her as his love, Dulcinea.

For this activity, give students a flower prop (nymph) or arrow (cupid) to hold with as they execute a preparation for soutenu turn, soutenu turn, or chaînée turn combination. Tell them they should dance beautifully and gracefully like they are nymphs or cupids in Don Quixote's dream. You can also ask them how they think such creatures should dance? Are they light, airy, and spritely? Yes!

The Wedding

After a swordfight, unrequited love, an abandoned proposal, and faked death, the ballet ends happily with Kitri and Basillio's wedding. There is much celebration again, and Don Quixote bids his adieu as he is off to find another adventure.

Have students do today's petit allegro combination as villagers celebrating Kitri and Basillio's wedding. Can they perform the same emotions they did in the earlier activity (that would have been applied to balancé, waltz, or mazurka), in their jumps? How might they do that in jumps (as opposed to a traveling dancing step)?

Kitri's Fan

The role of Kitri is known for big and spectacular jumps as well as turns. During today's grand allegro, allow students to dance with a fan like Kitri in her Act III variation.

For Ballet 3 students, you can also let them use fans in their turning or pirouette combinations. Hold the fan in one hand and as students turn, they should hold the fan in both hands. (They'll keep the fan closed.) This helps students to bring both sides of their backs around during turns. It can help any students who may be slow in closing their second arm to do so more quickly.