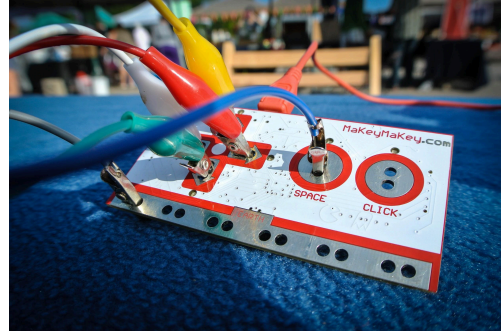# Makey Makey Floor Piano

The Plan:

Using a Makey Makey and tinfoil, create an interactive floor piano that will play notes when students walk on it

What to do:

1. Clear some empty floor space for the piano
2. Using a Chromebook and a Makey Makey either use an online piano (http://makeymakey.com/piano/) or build your own piano in Scratch (https://scratch.mit.edu/) to create a floor piano
3. Create keys on the floor using tinfoil (keys can be as small or as large as you want)
4. Connect the alligator clips of the Makey Makey to the tinfoil keys
   a. If you need more keys try using the extra ports on the back of the Makey Makey
5. Ask students to walk on the keys to trigger the piano notes
   a. If the notes don't play when the keys are walked on, ask students to try taking off their shoes
6. Ask students to work in small groups to design a short dance performance that makes use of the floor piano

Materials Needed:

- 1 Chromebook
- 1 Makey Makey
- Alligator clips (included with Makey Makey)
- Tinfoil

Extension Ideas:

Now that you've built the basic floor piano, think about how you can expand upon this idea. Using a program like Scratch, you can record custom sounds that can be played when the keys are stepped on.

If you want to make more durable keys, consider watching the following tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ox7kK8TDWg/.

For Teachers:

Curriculum Connections:

Makey Makeys are effective for creating multisensory multimedia art experiences that support the existing Arts curriculum.
- **Dance:** "[Students] should also be able to use technology and/or props to enhance the message of their dance pieces."
- **Drama:** "Introduction of digital storytelling, multimedia presentations, and dance-drama into drama forms; incorporation of technologies from different media to enhance sets, backdrops, and special effects; use of virtual role play to explore options for avatar characters."
- **Music: "...**use available technology such as software, electronic instruments, or recording device."

Reflection Questions for Students:

How can the floor piano be used to change the message of a dance performance?

How is the floor piano different than traditional pianos? Does the way music is played change the feeling it produces?