



#CovidSoundScore challenge

Here's an activity suggested by composer and educator Liz Dobson, who made a 20-minute recording of a wood in Huddersfield (at 6am to avoid other people). She could hear all kinds of birds, including a woodpecker, the motorway and her dog!

Liz thought it would be interesting to find out what you can hear from your house. So here is an exercise followed by a challenge. The challenge is for anyone of any age, she doesn't care if you are 9 or 90 years old, a beginner or professional composer.

1. What can you hear in your garden or from your window?

Sit and listen for 1 minute - maybe record it on your phone.

Alternatively, you could listen to one of the free minutes from Minute of Listening. You could try:

- Hello Cockatoo <https://www.minuteoflistening.org/minute/hull-2-16/>
- Sounds of a flyover in Hull <https://www.minuteoflistening.org/minute/hull-2-11/>
- Field recording of Clifton Bridge in Bristol <https://www.minuteoflistening.org/minute/brc1-50/>
- The sound of the River Frome <https://www.minuteoflistening.org/minute/brc1-15/>

What did you hear?

- Listen to the low sounds
- Middle sounds
- High sounds

Now do it again and listen to

- The close sounds (like your breathing and clothes)
- Sounds coming from your garden or very close by
- Sounds from further away

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This time listen for

- Rhythmic repetitive sounds (like birds) - long sounds (like a distant motorway)
- Irregular sounds that vary lots

2. Creating a score

Now watch **this** film of bird song and see if you can follow it like a musical score.

<https://tinyurl.com/covidsoundscore1>

You can see time moving from left to right with a line, and frequency (how low or high a sound is) from bottom to top.

Notice it shows the same image twice. One represents the left microphone and one the right. Loudness is shown by a change in colour from black (silent) through red, to almost white (loud).

- Can you describe what you see and how that represents the sounds that you can hear?
- Can you identify any of the birds?

3. Try this!

Try recording 10 seconds of audio then see if you can draw the sounds, using that film as a guide.

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Note: Please share your audio clips if possible on Google Drive and anything you draw in response to this activity.

Also, your parent or carer could sign up to Minute of Listening website for free:

<https://www.minuteoflistening.org/>