



#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.

It would be amazing to see your Covid Sound Score so please share using #CovidSoundScore and #MyMinuteOfListening!

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



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.

4. Share it with us!

Post your picture online using #covidsoundscore #MyMinuteOfListening and @lizdobsonuoh or email to e.d.dobson@hud.ac.uk (she will post it for you but she needs your name, age, and twitter or Insta handle (and you or a guardian needs to give permission for her to post)).

Happy listening!