

# Hi Everybody!

# Weekly Challenge #14

Welcome to musical challenge number **fourteen**.

Log in to [Minute of Listening](#) and find **Bristol Collection 1** and listen to **Minute #57**

This piece is called *Ruby and Elsie* and was recorded outdoors at The Old Barn at Kelston Round Hill, between Bristol and Bath.



By simply recording this piece of music outdoors, there's a really different *feel* to it. Another layer – the ambient outdoor sound. And it tunes our senses in a different way than how music recorded in a studio with no background noise might. Do you like it?

Right... This challenge requires you to venture outside...

Let's first learn about timbre. Timbre is what makes one instrument sound different from another. It's what makes a banjo recognisably different to a guitar. We choose instruments for their sounds and we *want* to use those sounds because of how they might make us *feel*. We change the timbre of our voices too depending on our mood – we might sound cross, or relieved or joyous... it's the same in music.

So in this challenge – first choose your piece – singing or playing – and THEN choose your location for its sound (just like in **Minute #57**) and make the background noise a key part of your music. See if the sound you make (timbre) changes to suit your location...

Your challenge is to record yourself either playing an instrument you're learning or to sing a song – somewhere outside that you have decided will add an interesting layer of sound to your piece.

Here are some ideas (remember that ANYWHERE you go MUST be safe AND with adult supervision):

- Sing a song that you like and have birdsong in the background.
- Play some electronic music (keyboard or computer) in a thunderstorm (maybe inside with the windows open!)
- Play a clapping / bouncing/ skipping game at a busy play park – keeping a steady, neat and clear rhythm.
- Try singing in an echoey tunnel or cave... does your song suit the location?
- Play your flute to some sheep in a field!
- Play a guitar (or any portable instrument) at a train station or harbour
- Sing a sea shanty whilst paddling in the shallows of the ocean....



**TOP TIP:** If it is windy when you are recording you can -

- A) Allow it to become part of your piece
- B) Use some foam/ furry material/ your sleeve to cover the mic on your phone/ tablet/ fancy field recorder
- C) Wait until it dies down a bit

The key to this challenge is letting the sound in the background become part of your piece. Have fun in the great outdoors! Remember your wellies/ umbrella/ sunglasses!