



Noisy Toys

You might not have musical instruments at home, but I bet you have **toys** that make **noises** and **sounds**. They are probably the ones you like best but annoy the grown-ups the most!

Quite a few composers have used toys in their music. The *Toy Symphony* was composed in the mid-1700's either by **Joseph Haydn** or **Leopold Mozart** and uses children's toys alongside conventional musical instruments. **What** toy sounds can you **hear**?

https://youtu.be/n3T_fDcT6GU



In 2016, the British composer **Benedict Mason** composed *Horns Strings and Harmony* for BCMG. He used over **100 different musical instruments, sound makers** and **toys** in his piece. We don't have a recording of the piece but above are photos of some of the toys he used.

The **Modified Toy Orchestra** (<http://www.modifiedtoyorchestra.com/>) is an orchestra that **only** uses **instruments** that are, or have been, **toys**! Take a listen here:

<https://youtu.be/U6rJK5mNKUI?t=1056>

Your Turn



In this activity you are going to use the **noisy toys** in your **home** to compose music. Go round your home and try to find as many noisy toys as you can. Here are some of the ones we found in our house .

Sorting and categorising:

Once you have collected them, it's a good idea to do some **playing, listening, experimenting, sorting** and **categorising**:

- Which ones are **long**. which ones are **short**?
- Which can you **stop** and **start**, which ones just carry on?
- Which ones **imitate instruments** or **sing songs**, which are **sounds**?
- Which are your **favourites**?

Organising your musical ideas:

Here are some **different ways** that you could **organise** the sounds you have found into a piece of music. NB you can use the individual sounds as many times as you like, and you don't have to use all the sounds you have collected:

- **Story** - use your sounds to tell a made up or existing story
- **Dice throws** - number 6 sounds from 1 to 6 and throw a dice to decide what order to play them in
- **Make a score** using **the template** provided in the downloads. Involve your family and use the template to plan who is playing what sound when and for how long. Use **words** and **images** to communicate what you want
- **Play, improvise** and use your **ears** until you find something that you like
- **Record** your **sounds**. **Sequence** and **layer** them using **Audacity** software. [CLICK HERE](#) for a guide on using and downloading Audacity.

Please send any music you create to learning@bcmg.org.uk