

Deep



Shiori Usui is a Japanese composer based in Edinburgh. In 2014 she composed *Deep* for BCMG partly inspired by the **BBC's Blue Planet**. Here is the link to the clip from the episode about the very deep sea:

<https://youtu.be/UXI8F-eloiM>

This is what Shiori said about her piece:

'Deep is inspired by all the weird and wonderful creatures living in the deep sea. I wanted to find out about who they are, and what they might be hearing or not hearing. I also imagined what it would be like to live the life of the creatures which inhabit the mysterious underwater world with more unimaginable conditions than a human being could think of. That was the starting point of my journey, and then my imagination ran wild.'

Listen to BCMG performing *Deep* conducted by Martyn Brabbins. What **instruments** can you **hear**? What **creatures** do you **imagine**?

<https://soundcloud.com/shioriusui/deepsea>

Not only did Shiori compose *Deep* she also created an **immersive experience** at the CBSO Centre. Musicians were placed at different levels; the space was lit to look like the sea from top to bottom and the audience was invited to sit or stand in the midst of the musicians.



Your Turn!

There are lots of clips from **Blue Planet** on Youtube. Have a listen to some of them with the sound off. How would you create music for one of the clips?

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8B8EDD0D02DA14B7>



Could you **design** your own **undersea world** full of strange creatures? Maybe there are creatures that haven't yet been discovered? Do yours **light up** or have other special features that help it to survive so far down? What might they **sound like** or what might they be **able to hear**?

As this activity is about the sea, I thought it would be fun to **make** and **record** sounds using water in some way. What **watery sounds** can you find, make and record? I blew **bubbles** into a bowl of water, **poured** water, made water **drips** and moved water around in different size **metals bowls** while tapping them.

As well as being a fantastic composer, Shiori is also an experimental **vocal performer**. If you listen carefully to the recording of *Deep* you will hear making strange sounds with her voice.

For this activity, you are going to use some software to help you compose called **Audacity**. You can download it here: <https://www.audacityteam.org/download/>

for a simple basic guide to using it. You might need help from a grown up to get started. With Audacity you can **record**, **edit**, **transform**, **sequence** and **layer** your sounds.

Once you have **recorded** and **saved** your sounds, import your sounds into Audacity. Now edit them to remove any bits you don't want. You can play around with and transform your sounds on Audacity by changing the pitch or volume, adding reverb, echoes or distortion from the **effects menu**. Here are some of my transformations:

Save your original sounds and your transformations. **Read the Audacity guide** and learn about **sequencing** and **layering** your sounds. Create a piece of music to accompany one of the blue planet clips or just a piece of music that reflects how you **imagine the deep sea** to be. Remember you can keep on editing and transforming your sounds throughout the composing process.

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