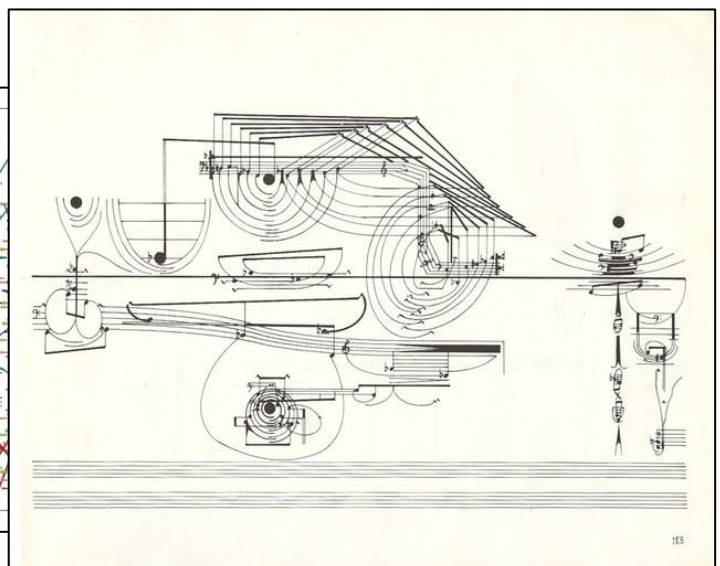
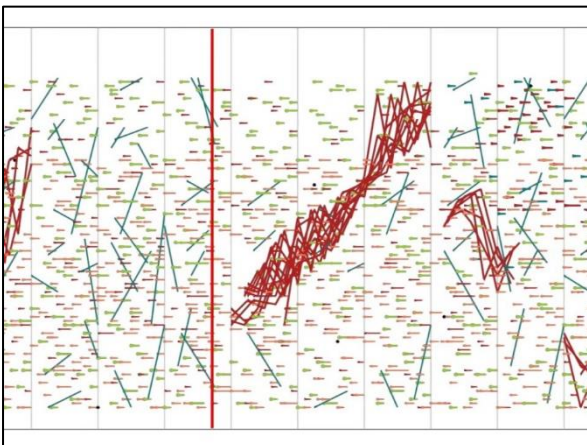
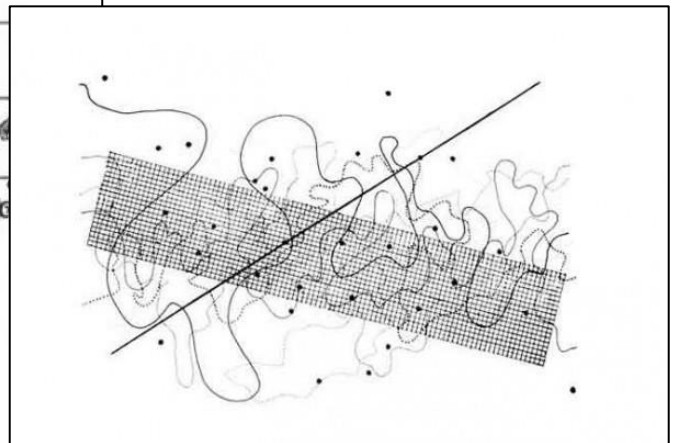
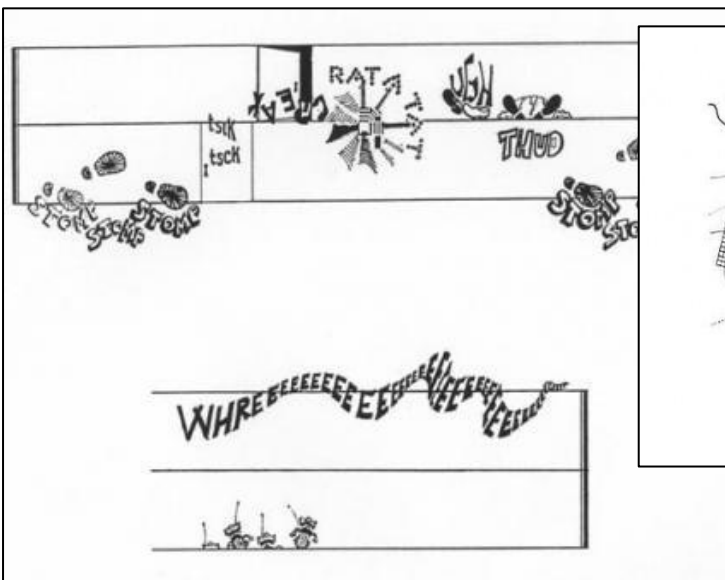


# Graphic Scores

Many composers from the 20th and 21st Century used graphic scores instead of traditional music notation to describe and record their musical ideas. A graphic score uses images, shapes and pictures instead of notes. Many of them are very beautiful. Composers use graphic scores because they allow them to express musical ideas that could not be described by traditional notation.

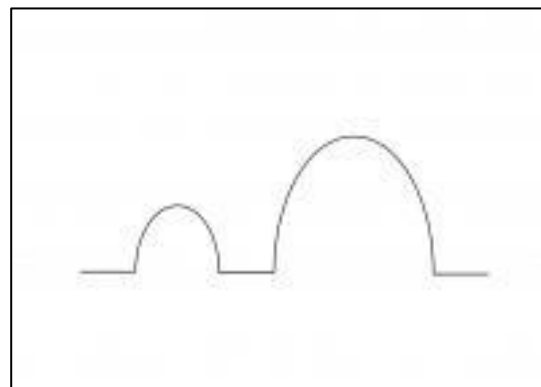
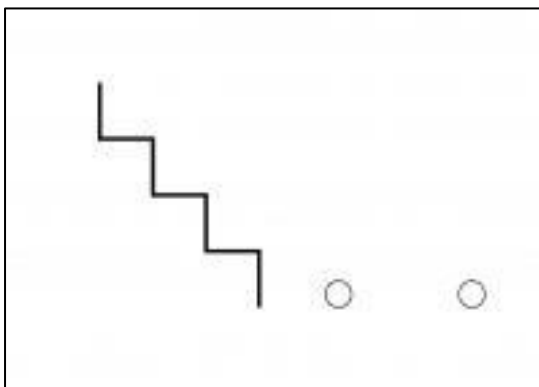
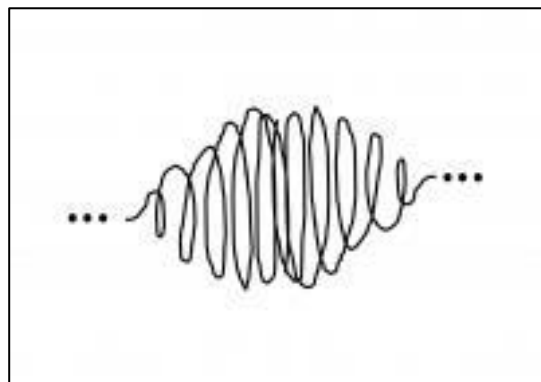
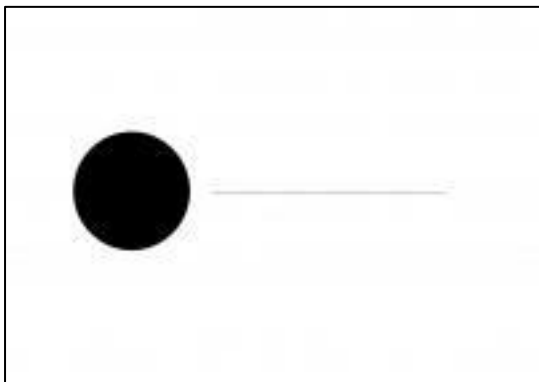
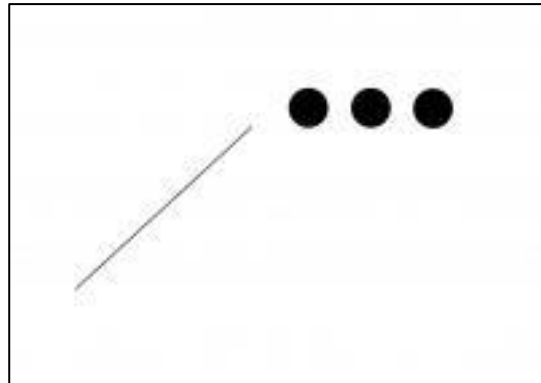
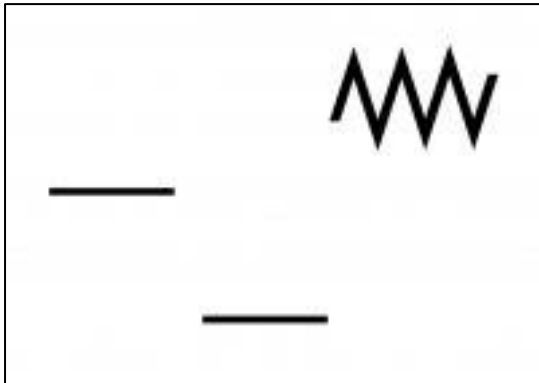
Here is a link to a film of one of the most famous - *Treatise* by Cornelius Cardew - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0V9\\_xqaw8Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0V9_xqaw8Q). It has been recorded and filmed so that you can see the score at the same time as hearing the music. You could switch off the sound and do your own interpretation of all or parts of it.

Below is a selection of contrasting graphic scores by composers Cathy Berberian, John Cage, Cornelius Cardew and Yannis Xenakis. You can find lots more on the internet.



# Your Turn!

Below are some musical ideas expressed in images:



Find a musical instrument, a collection of musical instruments, a collection of objects that make sounds, a music app or use your voice to create music for each of these images. Then, you could:

1. Put the different ideas in a order that you like - you can use each idea more than once.
2. Play around with the ideas - stretch and squash them, make fast and slow versions, turn them upside down, play them backwards. Then try number 1.
3. Make 6 images of your own and try 1. and 2.

Please send any music and images you create to [learning@bcmg.org.uk](mailto:learning@bcmg.org.uk)