

BBC

# TEN PIECES

TRAILBLAZERS

**Watch/ listen to the opening  
introduction.**



# Trailblazer

Composer Delia Derbyshire created a new soundworld using electronic sounds, using these to arrange the melody for Doctor Who – one of the most famous TV shows ever!





# Background – the composer



## Delia DERBYSHIRE (1937–2001)

- British composer of electronic music
- Member of the legendary BBC Radiophonic Workshop – a group of pioneering musicians and engineers responsible for producing sound effects and incidental sounds for TV and radio

# Background – the music



## Doctor Who Theme

- The famous melody was actually written by Australian composer Roy Grainer. Delia's task was to 'realise' or 'arrange' the theme using electronic sounds to match the futuristic sci-fi nature of the programme
- Derbyshire's version uses 'found sounds' that were manipulated electronically. She recorded the sound of everyday objects onto tape and then changed the speed of the tape to create different pitches or looped single sounds over and over to create rhythms. This was back in 1963 before computers made such experiments easy!
- Scandalously, Derbyshire was not credited with the composition of the now iconic original version and received very little money for it

# Watch/ listen to her piece written in 1963!



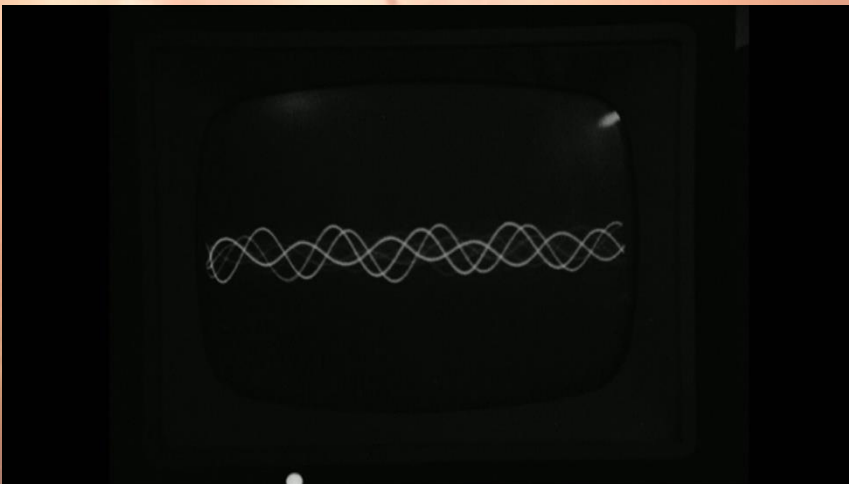
Everything you hear is electronically made sounds  
– no traditional instruments!



Take a large sheet of paper and something to draw with. As you listen to the 1963 original piece of music, draw the bass line.

Listen again and this time draw the swooping melody with a different colour – this is called a Graphic Score!

If you are with someone else, share your scores. Talk about what is the same, what is different.



**Next watch/ listen to the opening  
theme written in 2005!**





# Can you hear this...

## Doctor Who, Doctor Who

*tap on knees* ----- *clap* -----

Doc - tor who Doc - tor Who Doc - tor Who Doc - tor Who



# This is the main melody



**Next watch/ listen to an orchestra playing the theme at the Royal Albert Hall, London.**



What instruments do you recognise playing in the orchestra?



Write a three sentences in your home learning book about Delia Derbyshire and what made her a trailblazer.

