Dr Who theme – Delia Derbyshire



Composer Delia Derbyshire created a new soundscape with electronic sounds, setting the tune to Doctor Who - one of the most famous TV shows of all time. The famous tune was written by Australian composer Roy Grainer. Delia was tasked with arranging the theme using electronic sounds to fit the futuristic sci-fi nature of the show.

Derbyshire's version uses "***found sounds***" that have been electronically manipulated. She would record the sounds of everyday objects on tape and then change the speed of the tape to create different pitches or loop individual sounds over and over to create rhythms. This was in 1963, before computers made such tests easy!

Watch the video of 2018 Composer of the Year Segun Akinola talking about the work Delia Derbyshire did to create the iconic the iconic Dr Who theme.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoCaW3iEc6s

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Dr Who theme



Listen to the opening credits of the Dr Who theme arranged by Delia Derbyshire
The theme is made up of 2 main musical ideas. What are they?

Now listen to three versions of the theme (not necessarily in this order) and fill in the table as you listen.

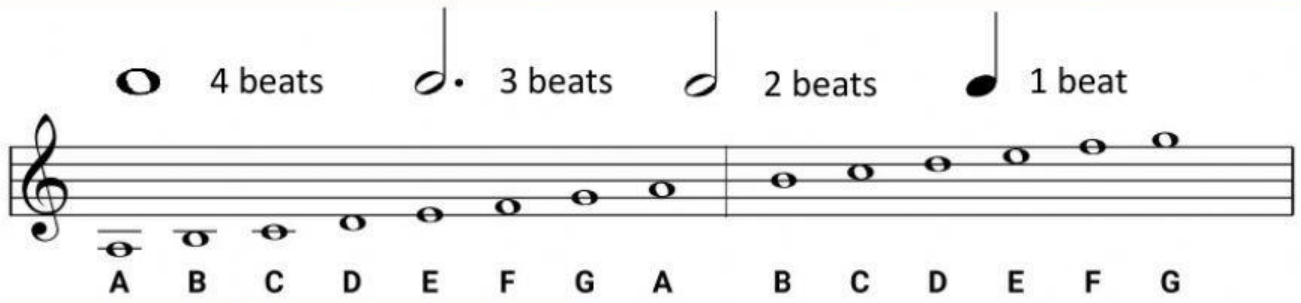
	Version 1	**Version 2**	**Version 3**
How does it make you feel?			
What instruments can you hear?			
What sounds/ effects can you hear?			
What are the similarities and differences?			
Which is your favourite and why?			

Delia Derbyshire used only 'found sounds' for her version of the theme – she chose objects rather than conventional instruments and instead of playing them live she recorded them and manipulated the recordings. You are going to have a go at creating and manipulating some 'found sounds' as well as creating your own melody.

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Part 1 – Compose your own Dr Who melody

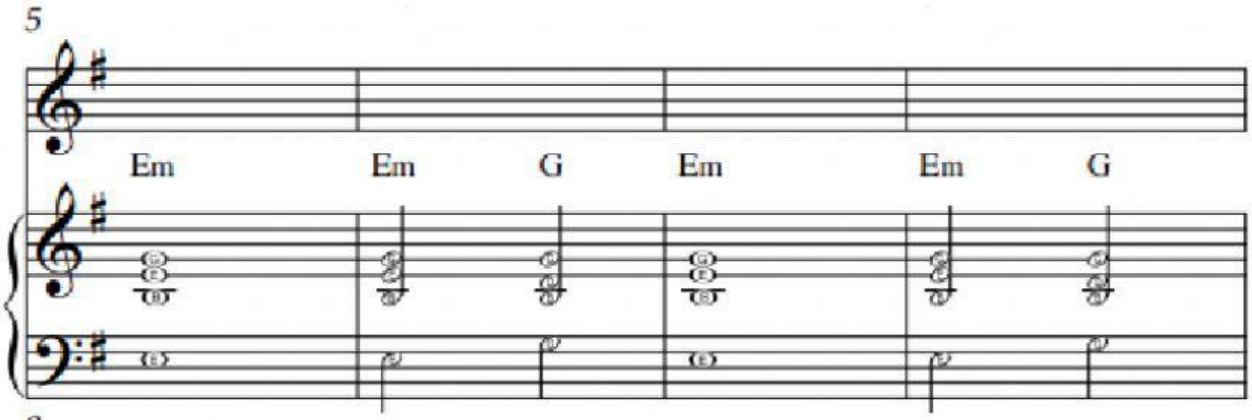
In pairs, write a theme each to play alongside the Dr Who bass line. The theme will come in at bar 5, allowing 4 bars for an introduction. Follow the chord progression and make sure the notes of your theme fit the chord for that bar. Make sure each bar adds up to 4 beats. Write your theme down using notation or letter names and then learn to play it on the keyboard.



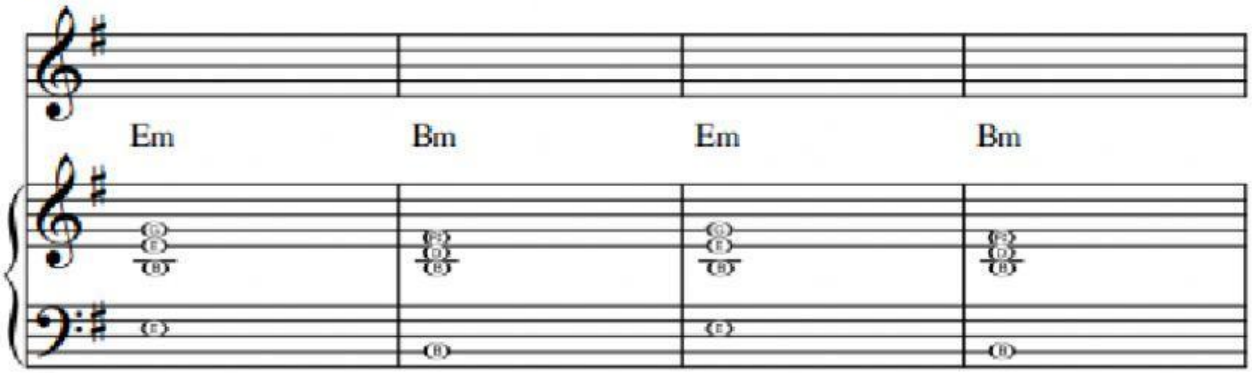
Chords used		
Em	**G**	**Bm**
EGB	GBD	BDF#

When you have written your theme, practise your theme ready to record into BandLab. Make sure you practise it along with the backing track.

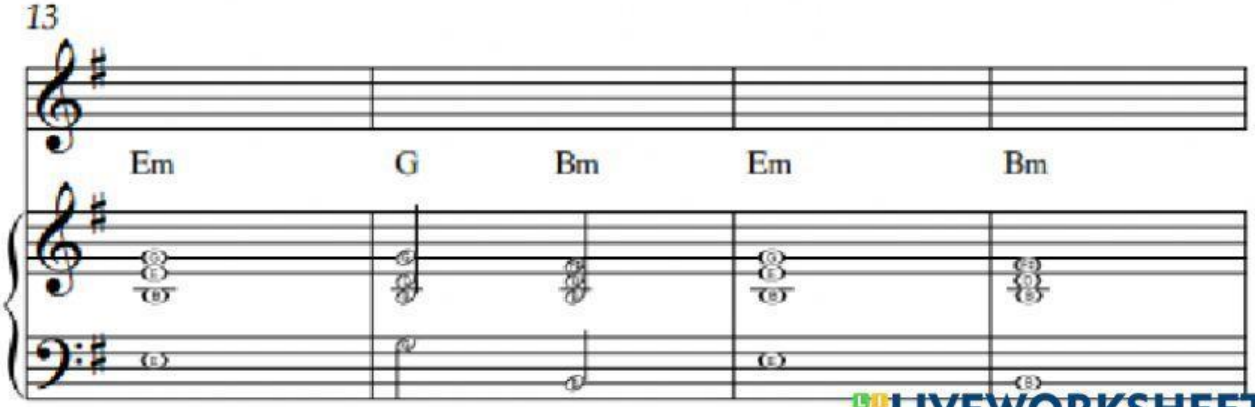
Write your theme here



Write your theme here



Write your theme here



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Part 2 - Create your own arrangement on BandLab

1. Open up bandLab and 

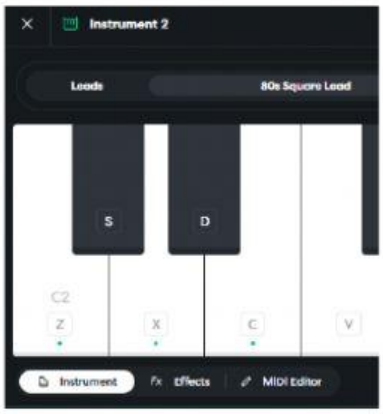
new project.
2. Change project key to E minor and bpm to 130
3. Invite your partner and your teacher. 

4. Import Dr Who bass layer 1 and bass layer 2. 

5. Add a virtual instrument track for you to be able to input your theme on a keyboard.



6. Record in the 2 themes that you have composed - connect your chromebook to a keyboard. Listen to the introduction and <u>start recording after 4 bars</u>. Once you have recorded your theme, change the sound of your theme, using different 'instruments' and 'effects'. *Possible instrs.-'**80s square lead, arcade lead, big synth lead/** etc. Effects could be **reverb, chorus, phaser etc.***
7. Now add other loops and sound effects – e.g. Sci Fi packs/ loops/ one shots. Make sure you sync them with your pre- existing tracks.



9. Record your own sound effects ('found sounds') and input these into BandLab at appropriate points. The sounds can be 'found sounds' using everyday objects, real instruments, body percussion, vocal sounds etc.
10. Manipulate the sounds using effects to create a suitable Sc-Fi sound scape.
11. Experiment with panning, fade in etc.
12. Keep <u>saving your work</u> and layering different sounds, loops etc. Be creative!

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Part 3 - Evaluation

Part 1 - Composing the theme		
My comments		Teacher comments
Did the notes fit the chords?		
Did the rhythms make sense?		
Was I able to play my part of the theme?		
How well did we work together?		
What could I/ we have done to improve this?		

Part 2 - Creating the arrangement in BandLab		
My comments		Teacher comments
Did we manage to play in the theme we composed?		
Were we able to input and sync audio/ loops?		
Did we manage to record 'found sounds'?		
How well did we work together?		
What could I/ we have done to improve this?		

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