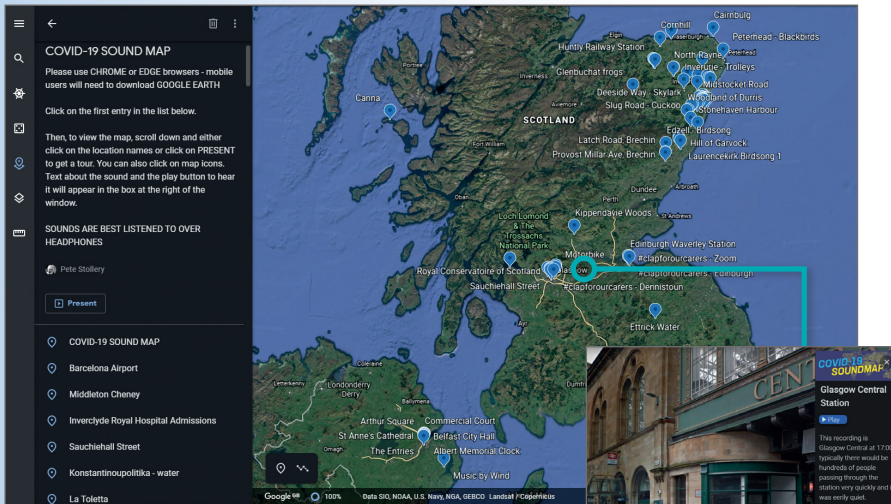


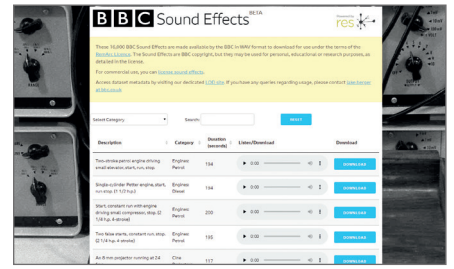
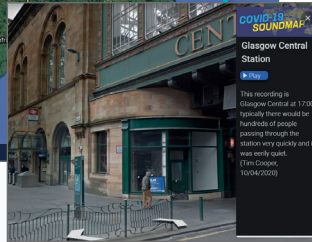
ESSENTIAL BOOKMARKS THIS ISSUE: Amazing audio sites



COVID-19 Sound Map

bit.ly/covid503

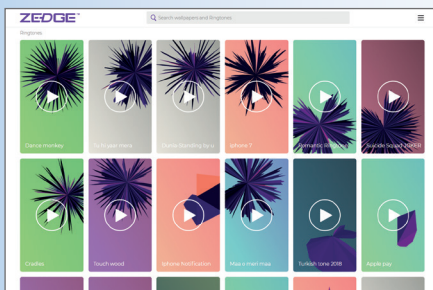
The coronavirus lockdown has had a striking effect on our audio environment, with muted traffic giving way to birdsong. This marvellous Google Earth map by Professor Pete Stollery captures the COVID-19 soundscape by gathering recordings from across the world, from empty city centres to tannoy announcements and the weekly [#clapfourcarers](#). Click a location name or map marker to zoom in, hear a place's sound and read a summary of where and when it was captured. Alternatively, click Present for an audio tour of the 168 recordings and submit your own through the Sound Scotland website (bit.ly/sound503). You need to use Chrome or Edge on your desktop, or the Google Earth app on your mobile device to access the sound map.



BBC Sound Effects

bbcfx.acropolis.org.uk

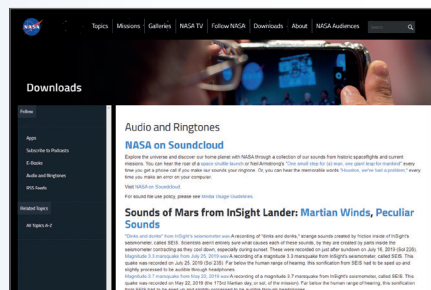
Need a specific sound effect to use in a personal or educational project or just fancy a sonic diversion? Then delve into the BBC's brilliant online archive of more than 16,000 audio snippets you can play in your browser and download for free, ranging from a few seconds in length to several minutes. The esoteric categories span everything from Air Raids and Building Site to Volcanoes and Weddings, with such descriptively titled delights as 'mixed crowd in a busy tea tent', 'oily massage' and 'three pigs, grunting occasionally in yard'. The effects are available as uncompressed, lossless WAV files but are easily converted to other audio formats, such as MP3.



Zedge Ringtones

bit.ly/zedge503

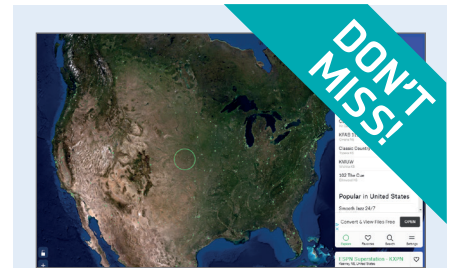
Personalised ringtones have thankfully come a long way since the mid-2000s, when the maddening Crazy Frog generated sales of more than \$400m (£323m), and they're no longer as tacky or expensive as they used to be. To enhance your Android phone or iPhone with some sonic character, head to Zedge, where you'll find more than a million free, good quality free ringtones to download via its website or app, as created and shared by the Zedge community. You can search what's on offer by keyword or category tag, and get your chosen ringtone in MP3 format. It's not all current pop hits, either - we found duck quacks, heavenly choirs and the theme from *Man About the House!*



NASA Audio & Ringtones

bit.ly/nasa502

There may be no sound in space but there's plenty to enjoy on NASA's Audio & Ringtones site, which offers a collection of noises from the space agency's historic space flights and current missions. As well as famous audio snippets such as Neil Armstrong's "That's one small step for (a) man..." and John Swigert's "Houston, we've had a problem", the free downloads include strange beeps and blips, lift-off samples and countdowns, and spooky Martian winds and "dinks" recorded by the InSight Lander. The audio files are available in MP3 and M4R, and there's a link to NASA's excellent Soundcloud page (soundcloud.com/nasa), where you'll find podcasts, documentaries and much more.



Radio Garden

radio.garden

Lots of sites let you listen to radio stations from around the world but few are as comprehensive or fascinating as Radio Garden. Use your mouse to spin the globe on the homepage and tune into thousands of stations in virtually any country by zooming in and clicking the green dots. The audio streams directly in your browser and you can easily switch from one broadcaster to another or have Radio Garden change stations automatically as you explore the map. Interesting stations can be 'favourited' and you can click through to visit their websites. It's a great way to expand your audio horizons during lockdown.