

## Computers vs composers 电脑将取代作曲家吗？

Vocabulary: music 词汇: 音乐

Can a computer create music as good as Mozart's? Armand Leroi from Imperial College, London, believes fantastic music can be made without a **composer**.

Dr Bob MacCallum has been working on Darwin Tunes, a computer programme that can evolve music out of noise.

It's a **Darwinian** process: at first there are two **loops** of noise and, as in nature, these 'reproduce' to create four loops, then again to create eight, then 16, and so on.



Volunteers were brought in **to rate** the **tunes**: those not liked were thrown out, while those that **hit the right note** were allowed to breed to create a new generation of songs.

At first the **melodies** sounded like a bad **jam session** but, after a few hundred generations, they started **to strike a chord**. While no '**Bravos**' were heard, the tunes improved quickly from their **discordant** beginnings.

With bigger, faster computers and millions of people's **ratings**, will this **elevator music** evolve into **masterpieces**?

Professor Leroi **sings the praises of** this new idea: "Would it be Mozart? No, I don't think so. It would have no composer behind it, it wouldn't be the act of any individual **musical genius**, it would just be the people's music in its purest form."

One thing is for sure: Professor Leroi's grand vision for the future of the Darwinian music machine won't **be music to the ears** of composers and musicians.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

## Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. What has Dr Bob MacCallum been working on?
2. What does the project have in common with Darwin's theory of evolution?
3. Which word in the article is used as an expression of appreciation at the end of a performance?
4. True, false or not given: *many people listen to Darwin Tunes in the elevator.*
5. What expression in the article refers to musicians improvising music together?

## Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. The film was brilliant and \_\_\_\_\_ with many young people in Britain.

was discordant	struck a chord	looped	sung the praises of
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2. He's not a very good composer and I don't think he'll ever create a \_\_\_\_\_!

elevator	genius	bravo	masterpiece
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3. I'm so pleased you're coming to London next year: the news is \_\_\_\_\_.

like a bad jam session	extremely discordant	music to my ears	musical genius
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4. The \_\_\_\_\_ for the band's new song are great: people love it.

ratings	bravos	loops	evolutions
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5. I don't particularly like this song; it's a bit dull and sounds like \_\_\_\_\_.

musical genius	elevator music	a masterpiece	the purest form
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## **Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇**

### **Quiz 小测验**

1. What has Dr Bob MacCallum been working on? A computer programme called Darwin Tunes that creates music from noise.
2. What does the project have in common with Darwin's theory of evolution? Just like in nature, sounds evolve with every new generation: the weakest are thrown out while the best, strongest, tunes reproduce to create a new generation of songs.
3. Which word in the article is used as an expression of appreciation at the end of a performance? Bravo.
4. True, false or not given: *many people listen to Darwin Tunes in the elevator.* Not given. The article calls these songs 'elevator music', which means this music is not very exciting.
5. What expression in the article refers to musicians improvising music together? A jam session.

### **Exercise 练习**

1. The film was brilliant and struck a chord with many young people in Britain.
2. He's not a very good composer and I don't think he'll ever create a masterpiece!
3. I'm so pleased you're coming to London next year: the news is music to my ears.
4. The ratings for the band's new song are great: people love it.
5. I don't particularly like this song; it's a bit dull and sounds like elevator music.

## Glossary 词汇表

composer	作曲家
Darwinian	进化论的
loop	循环, 指音乐里的循环段落
to rate	评价
tune	曲调
to hit the right note	找到正确的音符, 比喻做对了事情
melody	旋律
jam session	即兴演奏
to strike a chord	达成一个和弦
bravo	好, 观众叫好
discordant	不和谐的
rating	评分
elevator music	公共场所经常播放的乏味的音乐
masterpiece	杰作, 大师级作品
to sing the praises of	赞颂, 歌颂
musical genius	音乐天才
to be music to the ears	悦耳的音乐, 比喻好消息