

**We have also sound-houses, where we practise and demonstrate all sounds, and their generation.** We have harmonies which you have not, of quarter-sounds, and lesser slides of sounds. Divers instruments of music likewise to you unknown, some sweeter than any you have, together with bells and rings that are dainty and sweet. **We represent small sounds as great and deep;** likewise great sounds extenuate and sharp; we make divers tremblings and warblings of sounds, which in their original are entire.

**We represent and imitate all articulate sounds and letters, and the voices and notes of beasts and birds.** We have certain helps which set to the ear do further the hearing greatly. We have also divers **strange and artificial echoes,** reflecting the voice many times, and as it were tossing it: and some that give back the voice **louder** than it came, some **shriller,** and some **deeper**; yea, some rendering the voice differing in the letters or articulate sound from that they receive. We have also means to **convey sounds** in trunks and pipes, **in strange lines and distances.**

- from ["The New Atlantis"](#); by Sir Francis Bacon, in 1623 AD

This quote was posted in the [BBC Radiophonic Workshop](#) and the studio of Daphne Oram, the founder of the Workshop, and of the quote. I discovered it at the beginning of a [BBC Radio 3 documentary about her](#)