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BEETHOVEN it's not. But it does sound mellow and jazzy, if a little disjointed. It's **music** made by translating into sound the sequences of amino acids that make up proteins. Rie Takahashi and Jeffrey Miller of the University of California, Los Angeles, say that their **music** is more listenable than previous attempts to "musicalise" proteins and DNA.

The pair assigned each of the 20 amino acids not to a single note but to a triad chord, a group of three notes which produce a pleasant harmony when played together. To smooth out the **music**, they limited its melodic span to just 13 notes.

Finally, the researchers introduced rhythm by assigning time values to each chord based on DNA codons (Genome Biology, vol 8, p 405). The **music** of the human protein thymidylate synthase A can be heard on Miller's website www.mimg.ucla.edu/faculty/miller_jh/genezmusic/home.html.

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