

TORIENA

A chiptune wizard who turned her Gameboy into a musical instrument.

At the forefront of the chiptune music scene in Japan is the artist known as Toriena. Chiptune is electronic music typically composed by using the sound chips in vintage video-game consoles, and Toriena's music stands apart in its dizzying complexity and depth. Born in Sapporo, she gained an appreciation of electronic music in high school and began dabbling in composing in university. Starting with computer software, she eventually found her way to the classic Nintendo Gameboy as a means of expression. "I modified these Gameboys myself," she says. While the Gameboy seems like an unlikely musical instrument with only 4-bit sound, to Toriena this restriction is no issue. "I like the sound of the Gameboy music chip. A lot of people say electronic music, being man-made, doesn't express any soul. I think the Gameboy is very expressive."

