

TERRA NOSTRA “Our Earth”

A Multimedia Symphonic Creation about Climate Change

Terra Nostra tells the story of our Earth, from before it existed until now. The music uses different instruments to paint different pictures in the story. These are some of the main musical pictures you can listen for (and the instruments that play them).

1. **It’s a mystery: What was there before the Big-Bang?** (harp, strings)
The universe started with a **Big Bang** (brass/timpani/bass drum explosion!), and **time began** (steady pulse on bass drum and timpani). Galaxies full of stars (**light**: high note in violins) and planets formed.

Our Earth has **water**, which is essential for life as we know it. The orchestra evokes water from single droplets (vibraphone and harp), to **little streams** (clarinets) that flow into larger **rivers** (violins). Listen for different **birds** (flutes, oboes, English horn, with each instrument voicing its own bird call). The rivers flow into the **oceans** (cellos, horns, trumpets).

Women (oboe solo) and **men** (cello solo) start making their marks on the world. The **Rise of Civilization** shows how time marches on and the changes that happen (**Inexorability Theme** played by the full orchestra). Life speeds up as inventions change the way people live.

2. *Terra Nostra* shows the passage of time by quoting music from different historical periods:

- **Hurrian Hymn No.6** (circa 1400BCE; the oldest notated piece of music ever discovered): Harp
- **Guillaume Dufay** (1397-1474): Woodwinds followed by brass
- **J. S. Bach** (1685-1750): Strings, flutes, oboes
- **Mozart** (1756-1791): Strings, clarinets, flutes
- **Beethoven** (1770-1827): Strings, horns
- **Wagner** (1813-1883): Cellos, trumpet, horns
- **Debussy** (1862-1918): Flute solo, strings
- **Stravinsky** (1882-1971): 11 strokes by the full orchestra

3. The pace of the music speeds up with the **Industrial Revolution**, which sounds like a big mechanical machine by using brass, strings and timpani and punctuated by an ANVIL! Agricultural innovation and health care improvements translate into **population growth** (piccolo, strings, solo clarinet), as the number of people on Earth reaches 8 billion and continues to grow.

4. The effects of climate change include **drought and wildfires**. A steady pulse in the basses is followed by the **Inexorability Theme** overlapped on itself and reaching a dramatic climax with the full orchestra. The **aftermath of the drought and fires** is shown by a sorrowful bassoon solo with string quartet, followed by the first part of the poem.

5. **Change is Hard, Not Everyone is Convinced**: This section of wild music features the Glockenspiel (high bells) and a lot of activity from everyone in the orchestra. This is the most difficult part of the piece to play! We hear the bird calls again, but now they sound like they are not healthy, and then the second part of the poem.

6. The technology and industry that have made many lives better have also caused **air and water pollution** (snare drum, timpani, strings, harp, and woodwind), and the rising temperatures have led to **melting Arctic ice** (trumpets and trombones, horns, and strings, ending in a big double timpani solo and trombones sliding between notes). Still, given a chance, **Nature's Resilience** can adapt to the changes (gentle flutes in ascending and repeating pattern). Third and final part of the poem.

7. **The Moment of Truth** (It's time to act on a global scale): A long note (A) is held in the violins and joined by its closest neighbor (B flat) to create a tense sound (the musical term is "dissonance"), which grows into a full orchestra climax. This is followed by a solo oboe to signify the individual and how each of us can make a difference!

8. **Awareness, Action and Solutions**: This boisterous section expresses our capacity to seek solutions and work together. It features an **S.O.S.** motive in the brass (written in a musical version of Morse code) and reaches its climax with **Bach's chorale "Es ist genug" ("It is enough")** in the first oboe, solo cello, first trumpet and first violins, indicating that we have enough evidence and that **we all - kids, adults, families, schools, cities, businesses, states, and countries - need to act now to help heal our planet.**

9. **The closing section** pulls in many of the melodies heard in earlier parts of the piece. Listen for the **drought/fire** pulse and theme, and the **bird, ocean** and **Women** motifs. They are woven together to express the **resilience of nature** as well as human ingenuity in **seeking solutions** and adapting to a very fast evolving world. The piece ends with a violin duet symbolizing **the possible and needed return to a state of sustainable harmony between humans and nature.**

For the full recording and more information, visit us at www.terranostra.org