

Oscar van Dillen



DRONE SCAPE 10

anthropocene

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Dronescape 10

Dronescape 10: Anthropocene is the fourteenth in a series of albums, containing contemporary Electronic Symphonies by Oscar van Dillen.

The work on this album was composed, created, and recorded September-October 2022.

Music and cover art were created by Oscar van Dillen.

Geological timescale from Wikimedia Commons
Photo Oscar van Dillen by Elise van Rosmalen
www.elisevanrosmalen.nl

Tracks

1. Section 1	4:35
2. Section 2	3:06
3. Section 3	2:35
4. Section 4	3:48
5. Section 5	4:19
6. Section 6	3:02
7. Section 7	2:51
8. Section 8	4:40
9. Section 9	3:07
10. Section 10	5:03
11. Section 11	2:38
12. Section 12	3:17
13. Section 13	3:23
14. Section 14	6:06

Total duration

52:31

Dronescape

The title Dronescape suggests the contraction of the terms *Drone* and *Soundscape*, inferring a music which might at first sight be mistaken for ambient only. But not at a hearing: there is mostly a friendly and pleasant surface character to most compositions, but careful listening will reveal less obvious details and sounds, sometimes surprising, at other times perhaps disturbing.

In music, a *drone* (or *bourdon*) is understood to be a continuous sound, interval, or chord, usually an accompaniment to a modal structure (melodic music based on a particular scale). Special instruments exist, dedicated to playing the drone only, such as the *tanpura* and the *swar peti* from India. Instruments are found all over the world that include drones within the melodic instruments themselves, such as the *taraf* strings on many Asian string instruments, but also the drone pipes next to the *chanter* in bagpipes, or the hurdy gurdy, and its predecessor the *organistrum* with their drone strings.

Aboriginal didgeridoo music can be considered to consist purely of a rhythmized drone. Traditionally, drones with their sustained pitches are used as a harmonic support to the melodic music performed. In the Dronescares by van Dillen the music itself has become rhythmized drone and soundscape at the same time, foregoing the traditional compositional hierarchies of theme and accompaniment, by using the following musical elements, in order of prominence: 1. sound 2. harmony 3. rhythm 4. melody. This non-prominence of melody stresses the absence of a traditional theme and accompaniment-oriented music, instead the work moves towards a more inclusive approach. This does not mean there are no developing linear structures, but rather that in a way the album can perhaps be regarded as being semipermeable to outside additions, whether coincidental and random (such as happening when listening outdoor or with windows opened), or improvised, or composed, or even as a large *minus one recording*, open to be supplemented by the listener, whether in imagined or performed future additional music.

Anthropocene

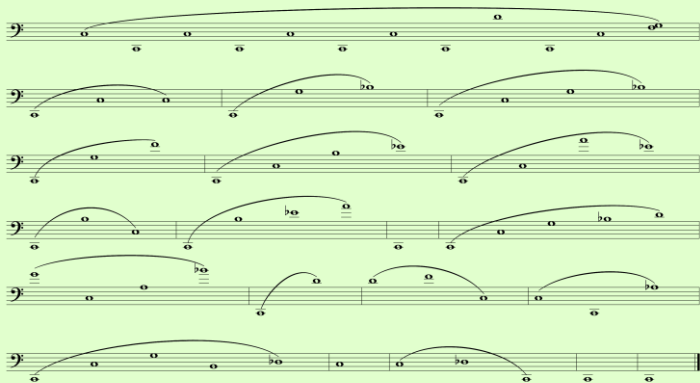
The term Anthropocene is a newly proposed addition to the geological timescale; to be placed above, or after, the Holocene (see image). It assumes that the human presence in the geological record will show in the far future so clearly, that a separate epoch in the geological timescale is already justified. It is however in itself a prediction rather than an observation, even though human activity is already creating a new type of sedimentary debris, predicted to become part of future rock forming.

EON	ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	Ma
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Holocene	0.011
			Pleistocene	0.8
		Tertiary	Early	2.4
			Late	3.6
			Early	5.3
			Late	11.2
			Early	16.4
			Middle	23.0
			Late	28.5
			Early	34.0
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous	Late	41.3
			Early	55.8
			Late	61.0
			Early	65.5
			Late	99.6
			Early	145
		Jurassic	Late	161
			Middle	176
		Triassic	Early	200
			Late	228
	Paleozoic	Permian	Middle	245
			Early	251
		Pennsylvanian	Late	260
			Middle	271
		Mississippian	Early	299
			Late	306
		Devonian	Middle	311
			Early	318
		Silurian	Middle	326
			Early	345
Precambrian	Proterozoic	Ordovician	Late	359
			Early	385
		Cambrian	Middle	397
			Early	416
		Neoproterozoic (Z)	Late	419
			Early	423
		Mesoproterozoic (Y)	Middle	428
			Early	444
		Paleoproterozoic (X)	Late	488
			Early	501
	Archean	Late	Middle	513
			Early	542
		Early	Late	1000
			Early	1600
	Hadaean	Late	Middle	2500
			Early	3200
	Pre-Hadaean	Late	Middle	3200
			Early	4000

Next to the debris, the Climate Disaster caused by human activities is also expected to leave behind a significant and specific stratigraphic signature, not merely by the presence of substances but also for example by the absence of future fossils of species currently dying out. Anthropocene is a term to not be proud of perhaps, and the proposed alternative Homogenocene is not more optimistic, as it refers to an impoverished natural life, very similarly composed everywhere on the planet, after the disappearance of many specialized more local species, both plant and animal. The human impact on biodiversity is one of the main ideas behind the name Anthropocene.

In the music of this album, the composer imagined a sounding musical stratigraphy, with partly eroded fossil sounds of instrumental music long dead, among which are remnants of human made harmonies, encased in a matrix of eroded noise. In the course of the work, one travels as if through geological musical time, gradually meeting more and more less familiar memories, artifacts, forms and substances, preserved and left behind.

There is a basic Cantus Firmus melody that creates the harmony throughout the composition; it is layered four times, twice transposed, each descending a whole step, while returning to the original pitch the fourth time.



The cantus firmus is here represented by a single melodic line, but the listener will recognize it was itself also harmonized, and intervals as well as triads have been used, or suggested.

Dronescape series

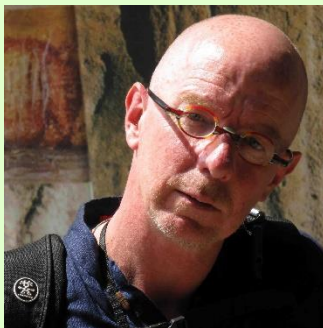
So far, the following Dronescares have been released:

1. Genesis
2. Genomes – Emanations
3. Infinity
4. Requiem for a Planet
5. Myrmecology
6. Oneirology (series of collaborations)
 - a. solo version Oscar van Dillen
 - b. version with Kudsi Erguner
 - c. version with Henri Tournier
 - d. version with Pier Sante Falconi
 - e. version with Leo Vervelde
7. Jñāna – Rigpa
8. The four Pillars of Reason
9. Matters of Life or Death
10. Anthropocene

*A word of warning: after careful listening, the world around you
may not sound the same any longer.*

Oscar van Dillen

Oscar Ignatius Joannes van Dillen ('s-Hertogenbosch 1958), is both a composer and a visual artist. A generalist rather than a specialist, next to his music studies in Indian classical music, Jazz, European medieval and renaissance music, and contemporary composition and music theory, he also studied architecture and mathematics. He was a founding member of the Rotterdam School of Composers, having written its manifesto in 1997. His works span a wide variety of styles and genres, encompassing full score compositions for classical musicians ranging from solo pieces to full orchestras, style-specific scores for ensembles of jazz and world music musicians, as well as electronic works, and electro-acoustic compositions. In a more advisory role, he has been and is part of cultural advisory boards and competition juries, as well as on the board of Donemus, and on the board of Wikimedia International, having founded the Wikimedia organizations in the Netherlands as chairman.



He teaches music theory, music history, composition, and improvisation at Codarts University of the Arts Rotterdam.

Oscar van Dillen's personal website can be found at

www.oscarvandillen.com

OIJRECORDS can be found at

www.oij-records.com

Donemus and Donemus Records can be found at

www.donemus.nl

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