

GAIA Soundtrack

30 minute surround sound composition by Dan Jones

Dan Jones is a multiaward-winning composer and sound designer working in film, television and theatre.

He has won a BAFTA and three Ivor Novello awards. Luke and Dan have worked on projects together since 2003.

The Gaia composition begins with interviews with astronauts involved with the famous 'Earthrise' photograph taken in 1968. The earth is seen as a fragile and beautiful floating blue planet.

The composition also contains excerpts from NASA interview recordings with astronauts about how they felt when they first saw the earth from space. Described as the 'Overview Effect', the experience for astronauts is a feeling of awe for the planet; a profound understanding of the interconnection of all life, and a renewed sense of responsibility for taking care of the environment.

The Gaia soundtrack helps to create a sense that we are floating like astronauts in space, above the earth and watching it turn beneath us. We can hear the sounds of the ocean far below, where whales are calling to one another. We hear the sounds of the rainforests and woodlands.

Layers of conversation build upon one another - as though we are able to hear all the conversations of the world happening at once. Jones' ambition for this section was to create the "sound of a million voices" as counterbalance to the fact that we individually, as creatures, are microscopic on the surface of our home planet at the scale of Gaia. It is, however, our environmental effect upon the planet which is more than evident when seen from space.

Gaia Soundtrack Transcript (Luke Jerram)

00:00:01

Apollo 8, this is Houston.

00:00:03

It's a good picture of the horizon.

00:00:05

We can't see many terrain features as yet.

00:00:09

Apollo 8, Houston.

00:00:10

We're beginning to pick up a few craters very dimly.

00:00:13

The whole thing is pretty bright.

00:00:16

Right on there.

00:00:17

Not much definition up here either on the horizon.

00:00:20

We're now approaching the craters C and Bassett.

00:00:26

Roger.

00:00:26

I'll ship to the run of a window.

00:00:37

It was the fourth orbit when we finally came to a position where we saw the Earth.

00:00:51

And then Anders asked me for color film.

00:00:54

Hey, I've got it right here.

00:01:00

You get up and still, I got it placed.

00:01:01

It's very clear right here.

00:01:03

And Anders does take, I guess, several pictures.

00:01:05

And I say 250 at F-11.

00:01:07

Oh, I got it right.

00:01:09

Oh, that's a beautiful shot.

00:01:11

And as Anders takes the pictures, one of them, as we learn after we get back home, came the very famous one.

00:01:19

When we launched, after about 25 hours of climbing up away from the Earth towards the moon,

00:01:28

I started taking pictures.

00:01:29

We separated from Saturn and were able to turn around and get a view of the Earth.

00:01:35

You could almost see it retreating.

00:01:37

It's like a kid watching his clock in the school, you know, the hand, then you look away and it's moving a little bit.

00:01:46

So I took a picture of the full Earth, the first full Earth man color shot, which is my favorite picture.

00:01:54

And it showed immediately, you know, that the Earth was very pretty, very delicate.

00:02:01

There was nothing but blackness around it, but it sure showed that the Earth was a very beautiful, but quite fragile place.

00:02:08

And particularly as we got further out, where the Earth is about the size of your fist and arms length, well, you don't have to be a real mathematician to realize that if it's

00:02:29

one lunar distance, the size of your fist and on its length.

00:02:33

If you're a two lunar distance, it's half the size of your fist.

00:02:37

Ten lunar distances, it's like that.

00:02:39

And to a hundred lunar distance, it's a, you know, a pellet you can't even see.

00:02:45

And a hundred lunar distances are...

00:02:46

Look at that picture over there.

00:02:48

Wow, that's crazy.

00:02:51

Hey, don't take that, my schedule.

00:02:57

You got a color film, Jim?

00:02:59

Hand me a roll of color quick.

00:03:00

Oh man, that's crazy.

00:03:40

All of us are wired to appreciate natural beauty, if you will.

00:03:43

We first saw planet Earth from space.

00:03:54

Anybody at any time in history, any culture.

00:03:56

It's all during the launch, outside the atmosphere of Earth.

00:04:01

Even though you've seen the Earth through movies, pictures.

00:04:04

And we were over the Pacific Ocean.

00:04:07

I'm just looking at that.

00:04:08

Gorgeous blue.

00:04:10

If you look at an ocean or a mountain or a beautiful forest.

00:04:13

Dotted with white clouds and the lack of space.

00:04:16

Movies, pictures.

00:04:18

When you look at the Earth, this impossibly blue planet.

00:04:22

Movies, pictures.

00:04:23

Dotted with white clouds and the lack of space.

00:04:26

I mean, everybody appreciates that.

00:04:28

I mean, it hits us fairly deep.

00:04:29

We're wired that way.

00:04:30

I'm just looking at that gorgeous blue.

00:04:33

This impossibly blue planet and this impossibly black.

00:04:38

sky just kind of hanging out there.

00:04:40

It is really, really breathtaking.

00:04:42

And when you see your planet that way, and it's sum total from space.

00:04:48

And if you're a tough person, you can't avoid becoming a child again.

00:04:53

People are wired that way.

00:04:59

You know, all those senses, they kind of get overwhelmed.

00:05:15

And this impossibly black sky just kind of hanging out there.

00:05:19

It is really, really dusting.

00:05:21

Like clouds, the lack of space.

00:05:27

Everybody appreciates that.

00:05:29

I mean, it hits us fairly deep.

00:05:30

We're wired that way.

00:05:33

What you see is beautiful.

00:05:34

You have tears in your eyes.

00:05:42

You can't avoid becoming a child again.

00:05:46

I'm just looking at that gorgeous view.

00:05:49

We're wired that way.

00:05:50

What you see is beautiful.

00:05:53

What you see is beautiful.

00:05:54

What you see is beautiful.

00:08:22

We have many.

00:13:02

You believe that Earth...

00:13:10

Certainly you know that there's conflict down there and certainly you know that there is pain and suffering and...

00:13:17

You believe

00:13:20

Earth is a spaceship.

00:13:22

You can't avoid the comparison between Earth.

00:13:25

Injustice, all these things that, you know, you certainly feel strongly when you're here on the Earth, and you know that those are still there, but that's replaced for a moment by how beautiful it is.

00:13:38

Looking as a finite object in front of your eyes.

00:13:46

And your own spaceship

00:13:48

which is closed with limited resources, all humankind being part of the same unique crew, is a spaceship.

00:13:56

You can't avoid the comparison between Earth looking as a finite object in front of your eyes.

00:14:05

I remember thinking, I wish everybody could experience this view of their home planet so that maybe it would...

00:14:14

We prioritize what's important to them and make them less angry at their neighbors and who are concerned about doing what they can so that we preserve the beautiful planet that we live on.

00:24:09

The Earth is blue and green.

00:24:17

The Earth looks like a great green, blue and white gigantic sphere.

00:24:29

It's quite blue and green.

00:25:08

We don't have time to sit on our hands as our planet burns.

00:25:12

For young people, climate change is bigger than election or re-election.

00:25:18

It's life or death.

00:25:25

It will take radical action to save us.

00:25:29

It will take radical action to save us.

00:25:31

It will take radical action to save us.

00:25:36

Nature is one of the most exciting, amazing and incredible things in the whole world.

00:25:44

Everything's unique in nature, nothing's identical.

00:25:48

And every single bit of it's like a complete wonder.

00:25:56

Loads of things in nature actually keep us alive.

00:26:00

It has loads of things that humans need in it.

00:26:04

If the environment's not looked after, then nature can get destroyed, and if nature gets destroyed, humans get destroyed.

00:26:12

Won't be here.

00:26:14

Won't be here.

00:26:17

Won't be here.

00:26:23

Climate change is the bad stuff that's happening to Earth, destroying some nature and
extincting animals and species of plants.

00:26:35

Plants are part of nature and they give us oxygen.

00:26:40

Clean air is super important.

00:26:42

It actually keeps humans alive.

00:26:46

We don't have time to sit on our hands as our planet burns.

00:26:50

Climate change is no longer some far off problem.

00:26:54

It is happening here, it is happening now.

00:26:57

It's life or death.

00:26:59

To kill animals and make the earth hotter until everything will be dead.

00:27:06

I want you to panic.

00:27:08

I want you to feel the fear I feel every day.

00:27:11

It's a kind of rhino and it's only thought to have like

00:27:16

four of its species left.

00:27:19

I want you to act.

00:27:20

What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

00:27:25

I want you to act as if the house is on fire.

00:27:30

When change continues to get worse, it may not look as beautiful as it is.

00:27:36

Climate change is no longer so far off problem.

00:27:40

Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.

00:27:47

and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.