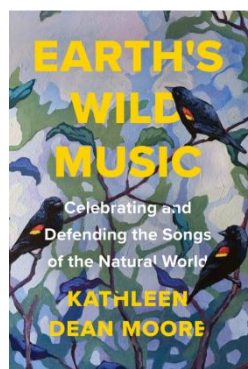




We Read: Earth's Wild Music - Celebrating and Defending the Songs of the Natural World by Kathleen Moore (2021, [Counterpoint Press](#))

Reviewed by BJ Nicoletti



If, in addition to the flute and music, you love nature and are an advocate for - or curious about - protecting and saving the earth's air, sky, water, forests and animals then this may be a collection of essays for you. It is not a book I can fully appreciate or read cover to cover, but it is thoughtful, and the angle appeals to my musical self.

Musician Paul Winter says - "Kathleen Moore is an ambassador for listening, and Earth's Wild Music is a guidebook for how this untapped sense can lead us to falling in love with our true home: the world of nature."

The essays attempt to tune us into the soundscapes of nature, to the music that lives around us. It serves to remind us of our moral obligation to engage with nature with our ears, to hear what must be saved from silence. It also encourages us to think about what it would mean to behave in ways on behalf of

the environment that would cause the earth to "sing" more. For Moore, each time something in nature dies as song of the earth goes silent, passing with no hope of reviving the melody.

Kathleen Moore is a philosopher and activist who writes from Corvallis, OR and from an island of Alaska. Learn more about her here: [Kathleen Moore](#). She also wrote *Riverwalking: Reflections on Moving Water* which Portland-based composer Deena T. Grossman's composition *Waterways* CD inspired me to read. (see the "throwback" review of this composition/CD from GPFS ...issue of The Portland Piper).

I think these essays, which are richly descriptive and provocative with just the right touch of science woven into the soundscape of the volume, can inspire composers.

Listen to music inspired by this book by the [Spring Creek Project](#). On this YouTube Channel you will find a series of 23 short videos w readings and music inspired by this book: [Music Inspired by Moore's Earth's Wild Music](#). In the spirit of the Native American flute theme in this issue of The Portland Piper, my favorite "Animal Interlude" is "Common Loon" read by Charles Goodrich and accompanied by Jan-Michael Looking Wolf playing the wooden flute - [Common Loon](#).

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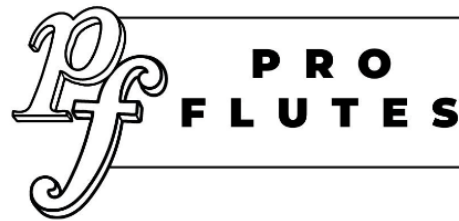
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— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“Music can change the world.” — Ludwig van
Beethoven

“For me, there is something primitively
soothing about this music, and it went straight
to my nervous system, making me feel ten
feet tall.” — Eric Clapton

“Music is the divine way to tell beautiful,
poetic things to the heart.” — Pablo Casals

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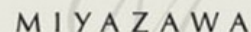
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“Music enhances the education of our children by helping them to make connections and broadening the depth with which they think and feel. If we are to hope for a society of culturally literate people, music must be a vital part of our children’s education.”

Yo-Yo Ma

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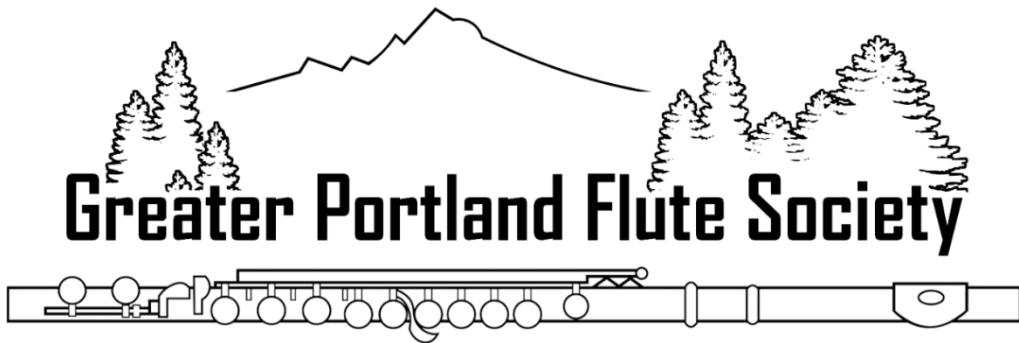
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