



We Only Want The Earth

Can music help us face the climate crisis?

The Lyric Feature, RTÉ lyric FM, Sunday 17 March & 24 March at 6pm

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New two-part documentary for RTÉ lyric FM's the **Lyric Feature** explores how Irish composers are responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis through their work. Presented by **Jonathan Grimes** of the **Contemporary Music Centre**, *We Only Want The Earth* asks if music can inspire us to take ownership of what's happening and help us imagine and shape a better future?

A keen cyclist, Jonathan took the route of slow travel to record the series and cycled over a thousand kilometres from the hills of Belfast to the Blackwater Valley, meeting with composers to find out how they are engaging with the climate emergency. We hear how artists are grappling with the crisis at a practical, artistic and existential level, and sounding the transformation of our world through their music. In a time of overwhelming global uncertainty, what role can artists play? Can their music bring us hope and inspire positive action? The series features music and conversations with composers **Sebastian Adams**, **Natalia Beylis**, **Éna Brennan**, **Robert Coleman**, **Gráinne Mulvey**, **Karen Power**, **Judith Ring**, **Nick Roth**, **Jennifer Walshe** and **Ian Wilson**, and contributions from climate scientist **Hannah Daly** and musicologist **Stephen Graham**.

Quotes from the series

“I think it's safe to say that I have been listening in the most remote places on our planet and I have been forever changed by them. And part of that change is in hearing the effects of humans and of industry [...] you can't unhear these things.” - **Karen Power**, composer

“[Music is] a powerful platform to voice your opinion. Anyone who has even a small platform should be using it for good.” - **Judith Ring**, composer

“Every species has its own way of expressing this delight in existing, so that's what we need to tap into. And all of the arts are fuel for that kind of energy.” - **Nick Roth**, composer

Broadcast Dates:

- *We Only Want the Earth Episode 1: Once Heard You Can't Unhear It*
Sunday 17 March on the Lyric Feature, RTÉ lyric FM at 6pm.
[Listen back on the RTÉ radio player.](#)
- *We Only Want the Earth Episode 2: Music Fuels Life*
Sunday 24 March on the Lyric Feature, RTÉ lyric FM at 6pm.
[Listen back on the RTÉ radio player.](#)

Production Credits:

A Contemporary Music Centre production for RTÉ lyric FM co-funded by Coimisiún na Meán, Sound & Vision Scheme and RTÉ Independent Radio Productions.

Presented by Jonathan Grimes, Contemporary Music Centre

Produced by Jonathan Grimes and Helen Shaw, Athena Media

Scientific adviser: Dr Hannah Daly

RTÉ lyric fm series producer: Eoin O Kelly

Production coordinator: Lily Collins

Additional recording and editing: Keith Fennell

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