

# **DRY HAZE**

The Year Without a Summer

Produced by: **DEUTSCHLANDRADIO KULTUR** 2013. Sound Art

Composed and realized by: **WERNER CEE**

Audio: <https://soundcloud.com/user2494832/preview-dryhaze>

Context information: <http://www.theanthropocene.de>

Radio Editor: **MARCUS GAMMEL**

Original Language English / Duration: 47'31

Based on the poem „**DARKNESS**“ by **LORD BYRON** (1816)

Additional Texts:

„**CLOUD SONGS**“ by **JUNA ROBIN** (2010)

List of Patents ref. **GEOENGINEERING** from the **UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Prologue by **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**, US Ambassador to France, (1784)

## **MUSICIANS:**

E-Ch'in / electronics / Sound Recordings and Editing / Composition: **WERNER CEE**, GERMANY

[www.wernercee.com](http://www.wernercee.com)

E-Guit./ electronics: **ALF TERJE HANA**, NORWAY [www.athana.no](http://www.athana.no)

## **VOICES:**

**THE UNTHANKS**, from NORTHUMBRIA, GREAT BRITAIN: [www.the-unthanks.com](http://www.the-unthanks.com)

**BECKY UNTHANK**: speaks and sings „DARKNESS“

**RACHEL UNTHANK**: speaks and sings „DARKNESS“

**ADRIAN McNALLY**: PROLOGUE and LIST OF PATENTS

**NEVILLE TRANTER**, NETHERLANDS: CLOUD SONGS

[www.stuffedpuppet.nl/](http://www.stuffedpuppet.nl/)

CHOIR VOICES: **KAMER... RIGA** / LATVIA

## TREATMENT

In the year 1816, as a consequence of a volcanic eruption in Indonesia, dry haze veiled the sky over vast parts of the Northern hemisphere. The dimmed sunlight even had its repercussions in the literary world – it inspired Lord Byron to write his famous poem „Darkness“.

It was the densest dry haze in Europe since the late middle ages and it was mainly in the troposphere- It consisted of sulphuric acid aerosols and its overall mass amounted to about 200 megatons. Several authors have indicated that this haze triggered an ecological and social crisis in different places of the Northern hemisphere. Misharvests led to famines and epidemics.

The year 1816 went down in history as the „year without a summer“.

It was the first scientifically investigated case of dry haze and to this day, it constitutes a paradigm of this phenomenon, a challenge for every scientist actually dealing with climate models.

Paul Crutzen, Nobel prize winner, proposes to employ the effects of spreading sulphuric aerosols in the atmosphere for weather modification.

The composition Dry Haze is the soundtrack to the shaded atmosphere/world, the twilight as it presented itself after big volcanic eruptions and might again be imminent if scientist's plans were put into practise.

Byron's texts are spoken/sung by the great Northumberland folk band The Unthanks,. Their part is based on a completely improvised and perfectly congenial recording session with Becky and Rachel Unthank. For the first time in their creative career, Rachel and Becky Unthank explored the „spoken word“. Their melancholic voices, their authenticity and boldness in approaching at first sight unconventional musical challenges made them the ideal choice for a musical interpretation of Lord Byron's romantic poem. Not least due to their dedication, „Dry Haze“ reminds the listener more of a musical production deeply rooted in the tradition of the late 60s/early 70s than of what we'd expect of a „radio drama“.

At the same time haunting and pure, their voices lend a special power to Byron's well-known words, conjure up the apocalypse while at the same time reminding us of the world's beauty.

The piece confronts Lord Byron's apocalyptic outlook with modern-day patents by geo-engineers designed to mitigate global warming by artificially triggering the effects of a volcanic eruption comparable to the one of 1816, no matter how devastating they were, as well as with excerpts from the contemporary cycle of poems „Cloud Songs“ by Juna Robin dealing with the vision of man-controlled climate.

On the musical level, Werner Cee's e-ch'in and Alf-Terje Hanas e-guitar add further emphasis to the imagery evoked by word and sound – acoustic manipulations of atmospheres, from psychedelic dreamlike sunsets to toxic thunderstorms.

Thus, the line-up features musicians from 4 European countries.

„Dry Haze“ is the second part of Werner Cee's sound art triptych „The Anthropocene“ centering on the relationship between the forces of nature and their perception/manipulation by humanity.

More: <http://www.theanthropocene.de>

## **MANUSCRIPT**

### **Prologue**, Benjamin Franklin, 1784

*During several of the summer months of the year 1783, when the effect of the sun's rays to heat the earth in these Northern regions should have been greatest, there existed a constant fog over all Europe and great part of North America. This fog was of a permanent nature; it was dry, and the rays of the sun seemed to have little effect towards dissipating it, as they easily do a moist fog, arising from water. They were indeed rendered so faint in passing through it, that when collected in the focus of a burning glass, they would scarce kindle brown paper. Of course, their summer effect in heating the earth was exceedingly diminished.*

### **Darkness I**

*I had a dream, which was not all a dream*

*The bright sun was extinguish'd, and the stars did wander darkling in the eternal space,*

*Rayless, and pathless,*

*and the icy earth swung blind and blackening in the moonless air;*

*Morn came and went --- and came, and brought no day.*

*Forests were set on fire --- but hour by hour*

*They fell and faded --- and the crackling trunks*

*Extinguish'd with a crash --- and all was black.*

### **List of Patents I**

*United States Patent and Trademark Office*

*April 27 – Process And Apparatus For The Production of Intense Artificial Clouds, Fogs, and Mists*

*March 1 – Process of Producing Smoke Clouds From Moving Aircraft*

*September 6 – Aerial Discharge Device*

*April 24 – Process For Controlling Weather*

## **Darkness II**

*And men forgot their passions in the dread of this their desolation;  
and all hearts were chill'd into a selfish prayer for light:  
And they did live by watchfires  
--- and the thrones,  
The palaces of crown'd kings ---  
the huts, the habitations of all things which dwell, were burnt for beacons;  
cities were consumed and men were gather'd round their blazing homes  
to look once more into each other's face;  
Happy were those who dwelt within the eye of the volcanos, and their mountain-torch:  
A fearful hope was all the world contain'd;*

## **List of Patents II**

*June 15 – Material Disseminating Apparatus For Airplanes  
March 31 – Generation of Ice-Nucleating Crystals  
April 28 – Electrostatic Mixing in Microbial Conversions  
September 20– Metallic Composition For Production of Hygroscopic Smoke  
January 24 – Means For Communication Through a Layer of Ionized Gases*

## **Darkness III**

*Forests were set on fire  
But hour by hour they fell and faded  
I had a dream.....  
  
wild birds shriek'd  
And, terrified, did flutter on the ground,  
wild birds shriek'd*

*And War, which for a moment was.*

*And War, which for a moment was no more, did glut himself again:*

*a meal was bought with blood, and each sate sullenly apart gorging himself in gloom:*

*Forests were set on fire --- but hour by hour they fell and faded*

*and the crackling trunks extinguish'd with a crash*

*and all was black.*

*I had a dream.*

### **List of Patents III**

*June 30 – Artificial Ion Cloud*

*October 20 – Control of Atmospheric Particles*

*February 16 – System And Method For Irradiation Of Planet Surface Areas*

*August 24 – Methods of Increasing the Likelihood of Precipitation by the Artificial Introduction of Sea Water Vapor into the Atmosphere windward of an Air Lift Region*

*September 20 – Treatment of Atmospheric Conditions by Intermittent Dispensing of Materials Therein*

*December 8 – Weather Modification Utilizing Microencapsulated Material*

*July 18 – Pyrotechnics Comprising Oxide of Silver For Weather Modification Use*

### **Darkness IV**

*The brows of men by the despairing light wore an unearthly aspect, as by fits*

*the flashes fell upon them; some lay down and hid their eyes and wept;*

*and some did rest their chins upon their clenched hands, and smiled;*

*And others hurried to and fro, and fed their funeral piles with fuel,*

*and look'd up with mad disquietude on the dull sky,*

*The pall of a past world; and then again with curses cast them down upon the dust,*

*And gnash'd their teeth and howl'd: the wild birds shriek'd*

*And, terrified, did flutter on the ground,*

*And flap their useless wings;*

## **Cloud Songs I**

*They still have wings.*

*They soar.*

*Who's going to tell them?*

*They cruise.*

*high above,*

*but not as high as before.*

*Not high enough.*

*They still have wings*

*that carry them.*

*They still know the trees.*

*They'll die not knowing.*

## **List of Patents IV**

*June 4 – Rocket having barium release system to create ion clouds in the upper atmosphere*

*May 6 – Communications system utilizing modulation of the characteristic polarization of the ionosphere*

*August 12 – Powder contrail generation*

*August 16 – Method and apparatus for triggering a substantial change in earth characteristics and measuring earth changes*

*September 6 – Atmosphere modification satellite*

*February 17 – Method and apparatus for modification of climatic conditions*

*June 9 – Use of artificial satellites in earth orbits adaptively to modify the effect that solar radiation would otherwise have on earth's weather*

*May 2 – Method and apparatus for modifying supercooled clouds*

*May 27 – Method and device for cleaning the atmosphere*

*January 12 – RFID environmental manipulation*

*Oct 05. – Geoengineering method of business using carbon counterbalance credits*

## **Darkness V**

*Immediate and inglorious; and the pang of famine fed upon all entrails  
men died, and their bones were tombless as their flesh;  
The meagre by the meagre were devour'd,  
Even dogs assail'd their masters, all save one,  
And he was faithful to a corse,  
and kept the birds and beast and famish'd men at bay,  
till hunger clung them, or the dropping dead lured their lank jaws;  
himself sought out no food, but with a piteous and perpetual moan,  
and a quick desolate cry,  
licking the hand which answer'd not a caress  
he died.*

*The crowd was famish'd by degrees;  
but two of an enormous city did survive,  
they met beside the dying embers of an altar-place  
where had been heap'd a mass of holy things for an unholy usage;  
they raked up, and shivering scraped with their cold skeleton hands  
And they were enemies.*

*The feeble ashes, and their feeble breath  
Blew for a little life, and made a flame,  
Which was a mockery; then they lifted up their eyes as it grew lighter,  
and beheld Each others aspects --- saw, and shriek'd, and died ---*

*Even of their mutual hideousness they died, unknowing who he was upon whose brow famine had  
written Fiend.*

*The feeble ashes, and their feeble breath  
Blew for a little life, and made a flame*

## **Cloud Songs II**

*Remember that noise against the attic window? / There are no attics now.*

*Remember the shimmering pearl strings on grass blades?*

*There is no grass now.*

*That was once*

*when we were wet*

*when weather was wildlife*

*untamed.*

**no love was left;**

*Remember dark patches soaking our boots?*

*There are no boots now.*

**no love was left;**

*Remember the earthen smell in the air?*

*There is no air now.*

**no love was left; and that was death**

*That was once*

*when we were wet*

*when weather was wildlife*

*untamed.*

*Remember satellite images and weather forecasts?*

*No need for forecasts now.*

*Remember barometers and rain dances?*

*There is no dance now.*

**no love was left;**

*Just a button to push.*

*There were no buttons then.*

*That was once*

*when we were wet*

*when weather was wildlife*

*untamed.*

**no love was left;**

**All earth was but one thought --- and that was death**



### **Cloud Songs III**

*Whitish trails in the sky  
Lines of dirty chalk on the blueboard  
scribbling lies and truths  
in windblown letters*

*Wipe them off.*

*Who will wipe them off  
Whitish greyish smears  
Cross puzzles  
drawing the parallel bars of our jail windows.  
drawing the grids measuring out the earth.  
the squares on the graph paper  
used for sketching secret plans.*

*Trails in the sky.  
Wipe them off  
Who can wipe them off.  
We follow them with our eyes  
We follow them with our doubts  
as they melt down the sun  
Ashen blankets choking the colors.  
Dry fog shrivelling the skin of the sea.  
Our electric steps slowed down  
by the sand in our running shoes.*

*We look up  
at the white sky  
we're unable to read.  
as we follow our trails on earth  
They will wipe them out.*

## **List of Patents V**

*HAARP Patent – Method and apparatus for altering a region in the earth’s atmosphere, ionosphere, and/or magnetosphere*

*November 10 – Charged aerosol*

*December 8 – Method and apparatus for creating an artificial electron cyclotron heating region of plasma*

*October 17 – Nuclear-sized explosions without radiation*

*March 12 – Creation of artificial ionization clouds above the earth*

*March 26 – Stratospheric Welsbach seeding*

*August 13 – Method for producing a shell of relativistic particles at an altitude above the earths surface*

*August 20 – Artificial ionospheric mirror composed of a plasma layer which can be tilted*

## **Darkness VI**

*the wildest brutes came tame and tremulous;*

*and vipers crawl'd and twined themselves among the multitude, hissing, but stingless*

*they were slain for food .*

*The world was void,*

*The populous and the powerful was a lump*

*A lump of death --- a chaos of hard clay.*

*Ships sailorless lay rotting on the sea,*

*And their masts fell down piecemeal: as they dropp'd*

*They slept on the abyss without a surge*

*The waves were dead; the tides were in their grave,*

*The moon, their mistress, had expired before;*

*The winds were wither'd in the stagnant air,*

*And the clouds perish'd;*

*Darkness had no need of air from them*

*She was the Universe.*

*No love was left.*

## **Cloud Songs IV**

*I saw a photograph of you  
You were so perfect  
delicate blue and radiant in a deep blue sky*

*You were so perfect in your haze  
This tender veil over your face  
Who tore it off? / Who exposed your naked skin?  
Who covered you in ashes? / Who made you vomit fire?  
My beloved blue marble circling your father sun  
I have a photograph of you  
my blue beauty  
Who bleached the blue and green colors  
exposing your white skull,  
burning your bare skin?  
I have a photograph of you  
I keep it in my wallet  
I hang it on my wall  
Except there's no wall and no wallet*

*Looking back I see you in a black sky  
unveiled, bare, ashamed of your creatures  
trampled by feet  
who couldn't find a way out.  
You're so ugly now, so sad, so lonely.  
There's no life on Mars*

## **Darkness VII**

*Seasonless, herbless, treeless, manless, lifeless.....  
Darkness had no need of air from them  
She was the Universe.*

## **VITA**

Werner Cee works in media art, audio visuals, sound installations and electroacoustic music and performs as bass player and live electronic musician. More than 30 Ars-Acustica-Compositions were produced by radio stations such as Studio Akustische Kunst Cologne, Deutschlandradio Berlin, Hessischer Rundfunk etc. He taught sound art at the High School of Arts Saarbrücken and has been a lecturer for audiovisual art at the Bern University of Music in 2008/09. Many of his pieces have won international awards, among others at the Ars electronica, Linz 1993// Radio Nacional de España/CDMC Madrid 2000// „Prix Ars Acustica“ Studio akustische Kunst WDR 2002// Computer music competition „Pierre Schaeffer“ Pescara 2002// Computer Space, Sofia/Bulgaria 2002/2004// International Competition of Sonic Art. Bourges 2001/2005// German Sound Art Award 2006 // DigitalArtsWeek Zurich 2007 //Prix Italia 2010

[http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Werner\\_Cee](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Werner_Cee)

[www.wernercee.de](http://www.wernercee.de)

<https://soundcloud.com/user2494832>

<http://vimeo.com/79922225>

[www.wernercee-fotografie.de](http://www.wernercee-fotografie.de)