

Oscar van Dillen

Evolutions

1.1

Hadean

Archean

Proterozoic

Phanerozoic

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Evolutions 1.1

Evolutions 1.1: Hadean (in 15 Events) is the first in a new series of *evolved music* created by Oscar van Dillen.

The work on this album was conceived of, composed, created, recorded, post-produced and mastered from October – December 2023.

MOTTO: FROM NOISE WE ARE MADE TO NOISE WE RETURN

Music and art were created by Oscar van Dillen.
Production and mastering by Oscar van Dillen.
Booklet text written by Oscar van Dillen.

additional Hadean image from Wikimedia Commons
photo Oscar van Dillen by Elise van Rosmalen

Hadean

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2. Noise condenses to molecular Dust 2:38
3. Dust coalesces into a Protoplanetary Disk 2:38
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Total duration

39:35

Evolutions ONE

The story this album embarks on is the greatest story ever told, and it was told for millennia, more times than the number of cultures and religions, but always in parables.

Some examples of such storytelling are given below:

“At the beginning, there was a huge drop of milk. Then Dundari came, and he created the stone.”
(Fulani, Mali)

“At the beginning, there was nothing. In the darkness of the world lived Sa, Death, with his wife and only daughter.” *(Kono, Guinea)*

“At the beginning, everything was water. Then Olodumare, the supreme god, sent Obatala down from heaven, to create the dry land.” *(Yoruba, Nigeria)*

“Now the spirits of heaven all commanded the mighty one He who beckoned, and the mighty one She who beckoned with mighty words, proclaiming: ‘Make firm this drifting land and fashion it in its final form!’” *(Kojiki, Japan)*

“In the beginning Eurynome, the goddess of all things, rose naked from chaos, but found nothing substantial for her feet to rest upon, and therefore divided the sea from the sky, dancing lonely upon its waves.” (*Pelasgian creation myth*)

“At the beginning of all things, Mother Earth emerged from chaos and bore her son Uranus as she slept. Gazing down fondly at her from the mountains, he showered fertile rain upon her secret clefts, and she bore grass, flowers, and trees, with the beasts and birds proper to each. This same rain made the rivers flow and filled the hollow places with water so that lakes and seas came into being” (*Olympian creation myth*)

“When skies above were not yet named, nor earth below pronounced by name, Apsu, the first one, their begetter, and maker Tiamat, who bore them all, had mixed their waters together, but had not formed pastures, nor discovered reed-beds, when yet no gods were manifest, nor names pronounced, nor destinies decreed, then gods were born within them.” (*Mesopotamian creation myth*)

Such stories are many, they are beautiful and poetic. Yet they hardly relate to the precise circumstances and history of the world. These myths are far more revealing about the people who wrote them down; the details found relevant to mention, the things not spoken of. Even in our more enlightened times, the number of people still sticking to these old stories is overwhelming. Such is the power of poetry. But there is new poetry being written on this topic during our lifetime, are we even aware of its details? The new poetic story is told by extremely precise science: by biology, chemistry, geology, astronomy and meteorology. All the sciences are working together now to create a coherent and above all, a verifiable story of what actually happened long ago, at the beginning of things, before the beginning of things, was there even a beginning to it all? The story of this album starts before it.

The idea behind the music in this album started with the idea of composing a growing music, strictly made from similar techniques and principles but lateral to the story, never expressing, let alone depicting it. Not a metaphor,

nor an allegory, but a parallel work of art in its own right. For a while the idea of pentimenti was also a working title. Eventually it led to the concept of Evolutionary Music, evolving each next part out of former parts. This is always done in strictly single track quasi live rendering of a chain of changes applied to the former track. From this process of compositional evolution grew a parallel story to the real evolution of the planet we are part of.

Let us be clear: we are not living on a planet, rather we are alive as part of a planet, a living planet of which we are a tiny part. Life simply cannot be seen as separate from the planet that gave birth to it.

We ourselves then are the planet become alive, become aware. Forget the old stories: we are not living *on* earth; we are part of Earth. This our planet is a finely tuned but very robust system of acting and reacting chemicals. Of ecosystems driven to growth by the forces of tectonics, emerging from the depths of the planet. Of complex interdependencies constantly on the move, evolving.

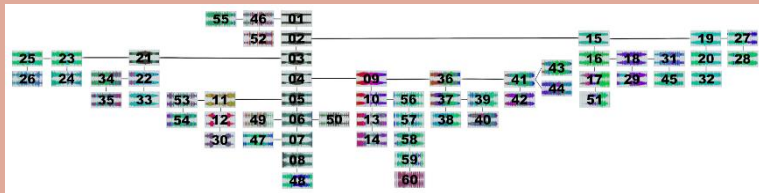
It is time to tell this, our BIG story, again, in a new form.

You are about to embark on a new listening experience that will forego the usual elements used in mainstream music; missing are traditional tuning system(s), instruments, scales, intervals, chords, forms, and even the classical roles of lead and accompaniment among registers, foreground and background hierarchies. In the polysemic abstraction of this music there is a different flow of musical time, not confined by time signatures nor beat structures, nor accompanied by rhythmic sections. But all musicality is there, in different appearance and sound: linear pitch movements, but not equally tempered tuned, harmonies, but not traditional chords nor tonalities and modalities, and finally pulsating rhythms, but not like machines; these lively sounds are evolving rather like elements, seasons, earthquakes, weather, tides, heartbeats, breaths – per event, but also over the whole flow and form of the work.

The full history of our planet spans over 4.6 billion years, which can be divided into four distinct periods called eons: Hadean, Archean, Proterozoic and Phanerozoic.

Each of these periods is represented by 15 Events, adding up to a total of 60 Events representing the total history of life, of our planet. This album is the first of four, presenting the music of the 15 Hadean Events, an era in which life was found to have started relatively early, in an ecology very far removed from the current one.

Each of the Events is musically and technically developed, evolved, from a parent event, and often offspring events are developed from it. With each event this is indicated in the description. An overview tree of the evolution of the 60 Events is given below. Each parent event is literally and consequently morphed to evolve into its offspring Event(s).



tree of evolutionary and technical dependency of the 60 events

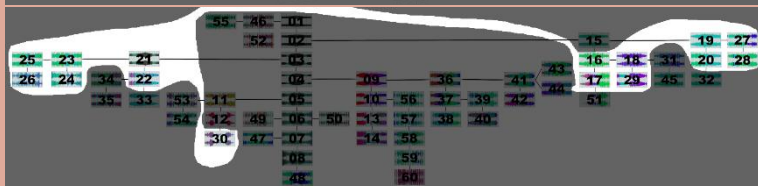
On the opposite page the events occurring within the major periods are highlighted in the overview tree:

Hadean events ->

Archean events ->

Proterozoic events ->

Phanerozoic events ->



The backgrounds of these numbered fields each contain a tiny visual representation of the waveform of the Event. Large versions of these colored waveforms are shown with each event further down. Additionally, a colored spectral graph is shown each time. Whereas the colors of these waveforms represent frequencies of loudness (green is lower, deeper), the colors of the spectrographs on the contrary represent loudness of frequencies (red is louder). When comparing waveforms and spectral graphs of evolutionarily related events, similarities in either or both can be observed: similar forms, similar patterns and colors, similar yet different, because evolved into the next stage, not a higher or lower stage, just the next stage.

Since the main story is told in music, the colorful visuals (waveforms and spectral view) are intended as help for aural orientation. Our ears will hear much more than our eyes can ever see, perceiving over 10 octaves of sound, meanwhile eyes seeing hardly 1 octave of light. Nevertheless, as with musical notation, these graphs will be a help to the listener who takes the time to study them.



The Hadean is the oldest yet the shortest of the four major geological eons. It starts with the formation of the Earth 4,567,000,000 years ago and ended with the solidification of the crust 4,031,000,000 years ago. Meanwhile the planet's surface was an almost unbroken ocean under an atmosphere the composition of which is again under scientific debate. Originally thought to be an eon before life, recent research and discoveries concerning the nature of life itself propose life may have started already in this first age of Earth's life as a planet.

The geological record in the rocks concerning the Hadean is variously documented from meteorites (rocks as old as the solar system) and terrestrial rocks from Greenland, Canada and Australia. It was in rocks from Western Australia dating 4,100,000,000 years old, remains of possible "biotic life" have been found in 2015.

A major event was the Theia impact event, which is hypothesized as a Mars-size planetoid crashing into the Earth, melting a large part of the solidified crust while leaving the orbiting Moon behind. The moon's rocks are clearly the same as the Earth's, as was a surprising result of the Apollo missions. The collision offset the rotating axis of the Earth, yet the Moon's gravity stabilizes its oscillation.

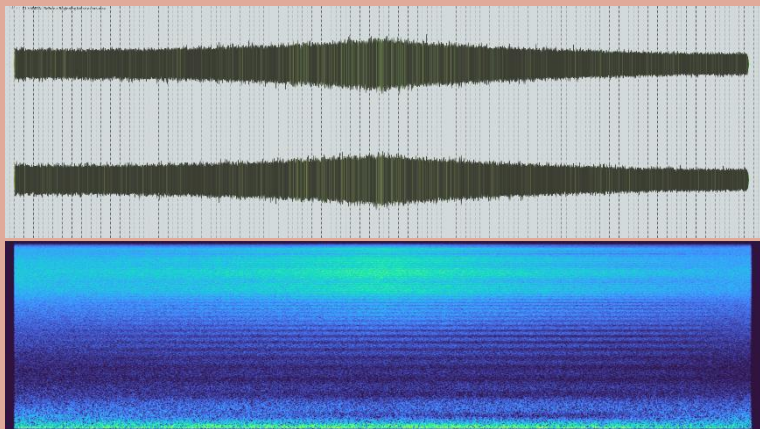
Plate tectonics, a major motor for the evolution of life, is today documented to go back to almost this time, as early as a mere 600,000,000 years after the planet's formation.

Before a Beginning Noise exists

HADEAN Event 01

Parent event	none
Offspring events	02, 46

only to start before a beginning is to really
start at the beginning

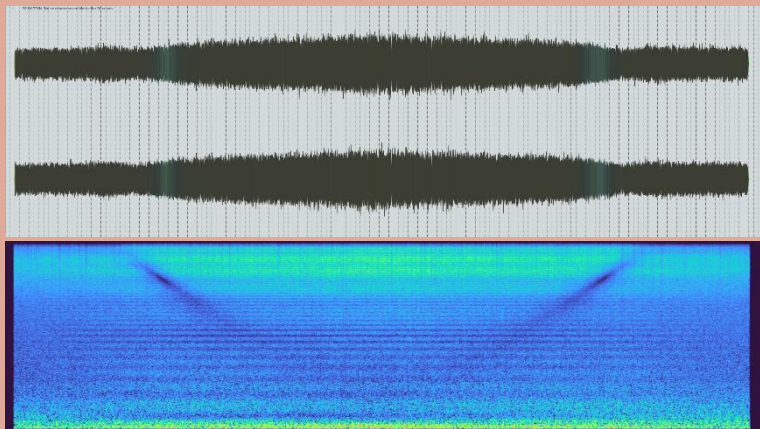


Noise condenses to molecular Dust

HADEAN Event 02

Parent event 01
Offspring events 03, 15

what we know as beginning is energy filling
spacetime, taking forms

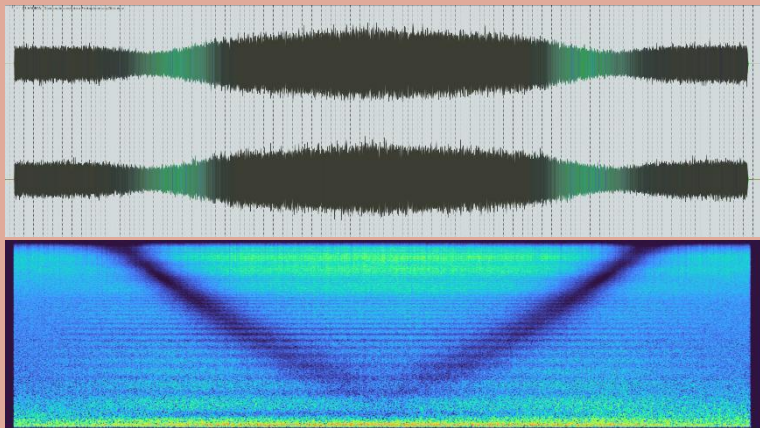


Dust coalesces into a Protoplanetary Disk

HADEAN Event 03

Parent event 02
Offspring events 04, 21

dust with atoms created in dying megastars forms
our solar system

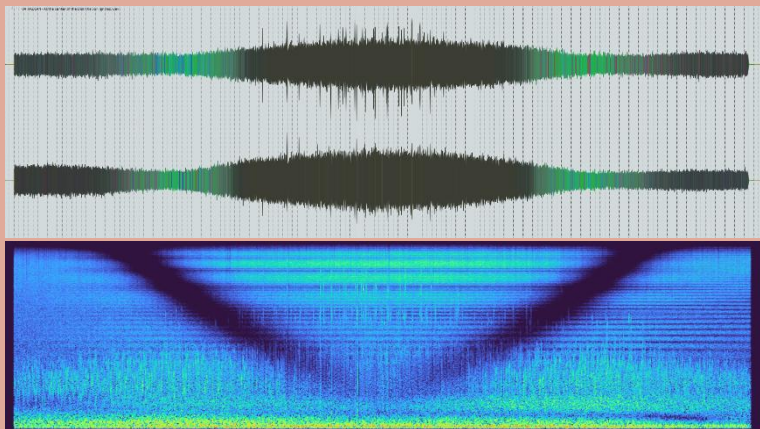


At the center of the Disk the Sun Ignites

HADEAN Event 04

Parent event 03
Offspring events 05, 09

the igniting sun blows the system clear of its
very lightest particles

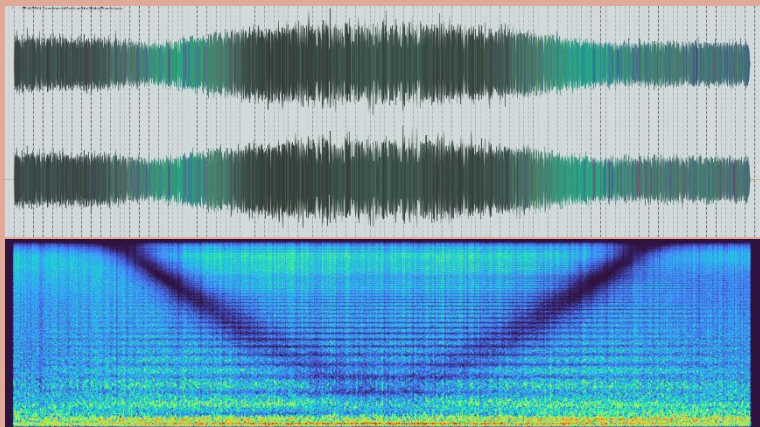


Accretions of Earth and its Sibling Planets

HADEAN Event 05

Parent event	04
Offspring events	06, 11

planets form by the force of gravity, each in its own orbit

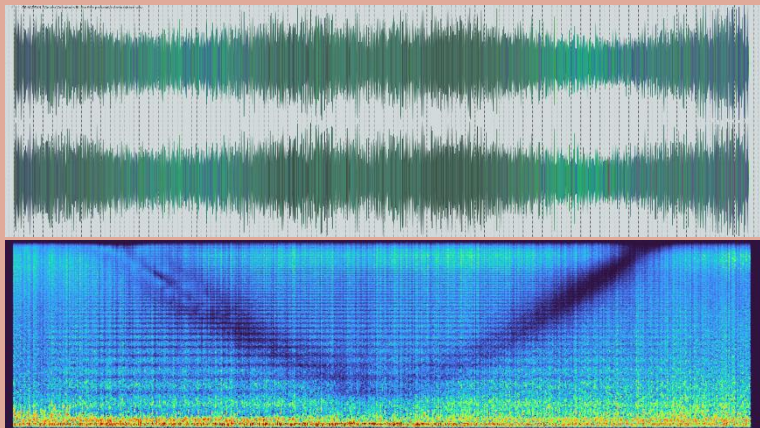


Violent Volcanoes fill the first protective Atmosphere

HADEAN Event 06

Parent event	05
Offspring events	07, 49, 50

cosmic rays and particles are blocked by a forming atmosphere

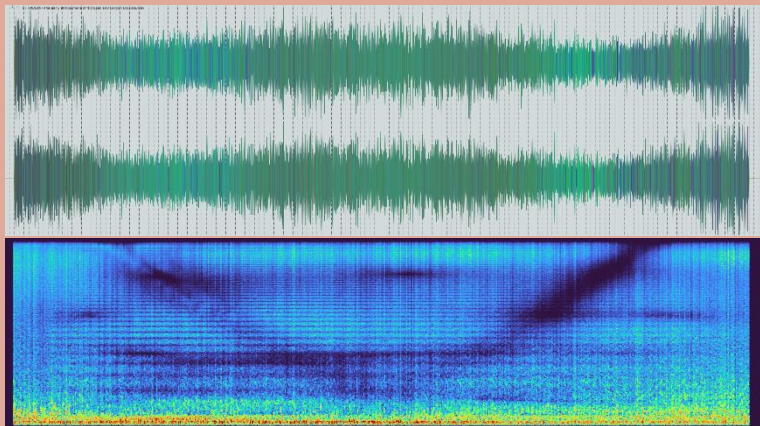


The early atmosphere of Nitrogen and Carbon Dioxide

HADEAN Event 07

Parent event 06
Offspring events 08, 47

its atmosphere makes earth an ecology, a place
apart in the universe



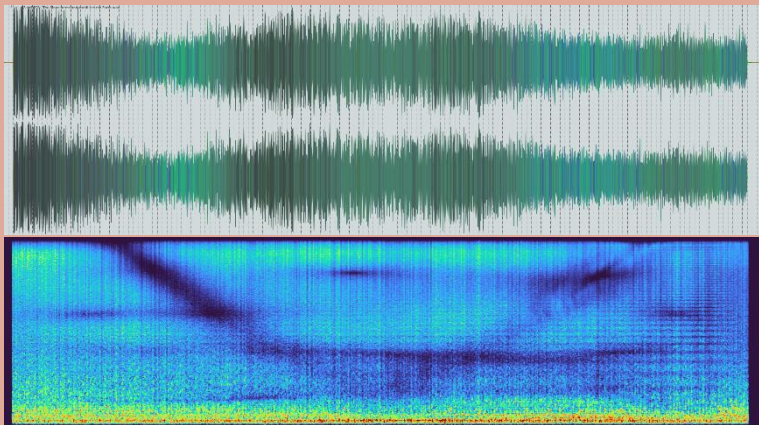
The Moon forms and stabilizes the Earth

HADEAN Event 08

Parent event 07

Offspring event 48

days are only 12 hours, but the moon will slow the planetary rotation

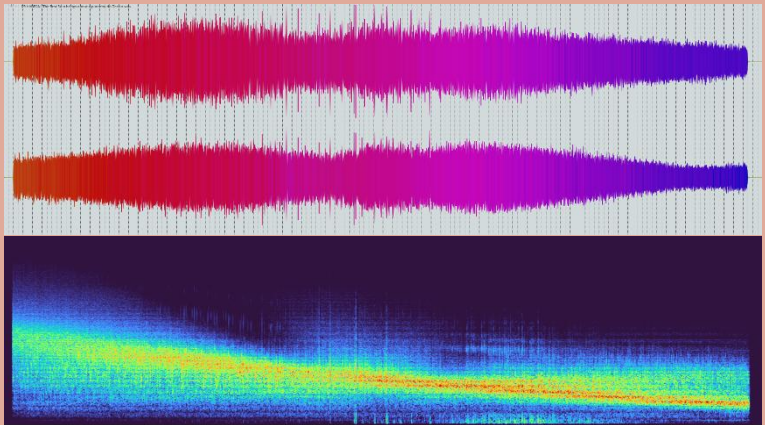


The first Rain brings about a planetwide Ocean

HADEAN Event 09

Parent event 04
Offspring events 10, 36

water brought by meteorites rains from clouds:
essential for life

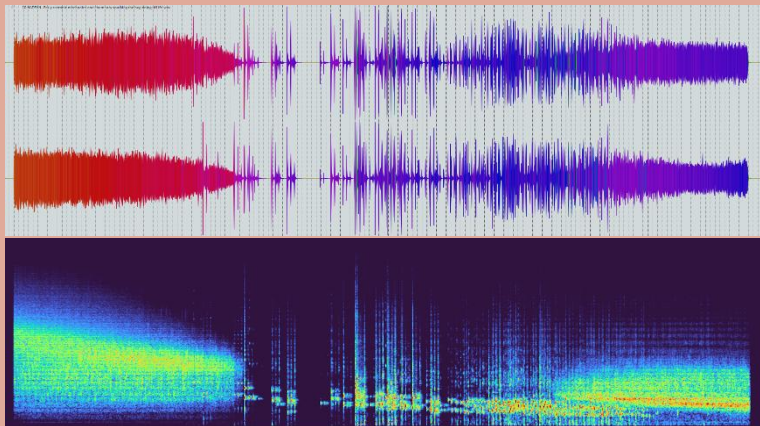


Early tectonic mechanics and chemistry sparking the beginning of Life

HADEAN Event 10

Parent event 09
Offspring events 13, 56

meteorites brought organic molecules: life is
born from the cosmos

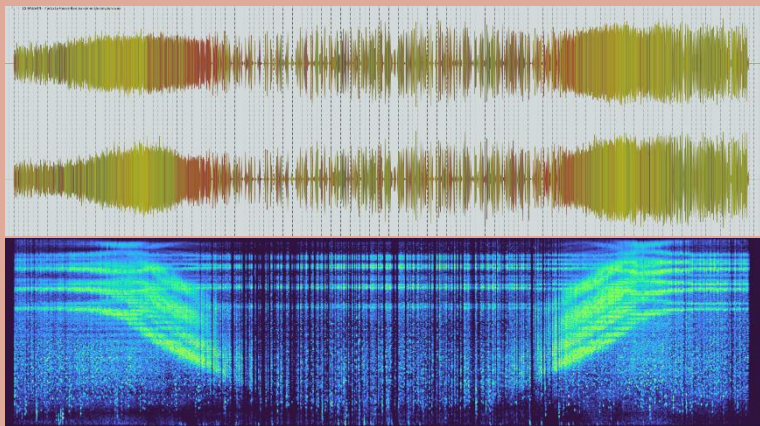


The Late Heavy Bombardment Extinction

HADEAN Event 11

Parent event	05
Offspring events	12, 53

the first of many extinctions to come is by a meteoric bombardment



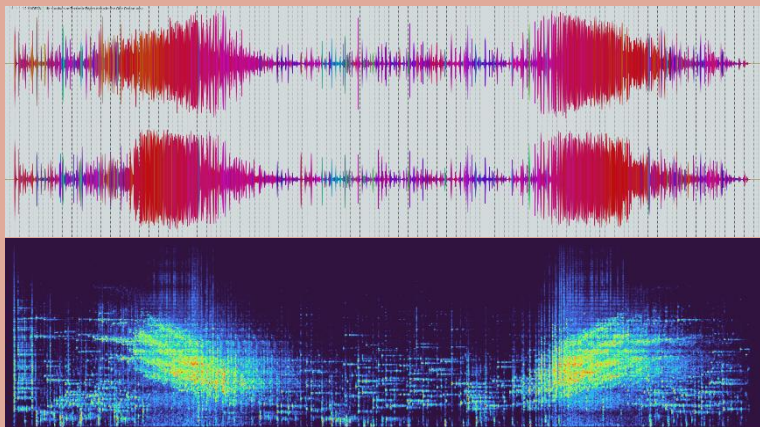
Life survives at Tectonic Edges deep in the One Ocean

HADEAN Event 12

Parent event 11

Offspring event 30

**fueled by heat and radioactivity, continents
form under the sea**



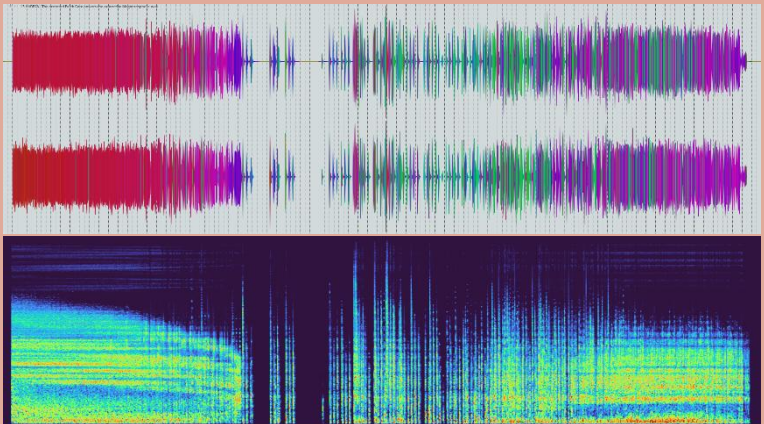
The accreted Earth Core powers the protective Magnetosphere

HADEAN Event 13

Parent event 10

Offspring event 14

at the earth's core there is a huge ball of pure iron, repelling rays

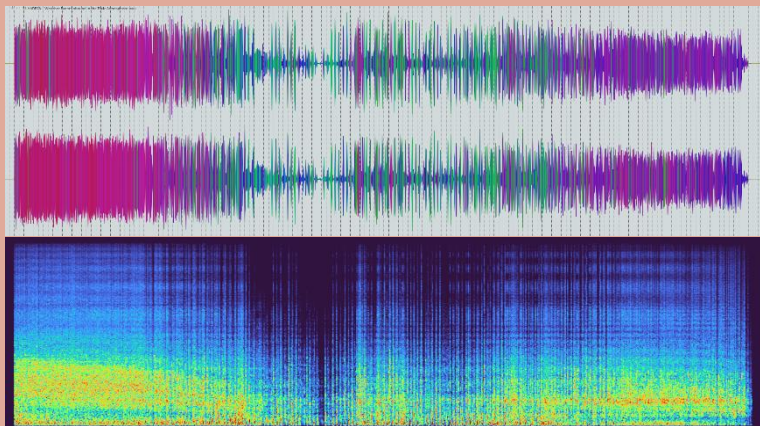


Weather Events abound in the Toxic Atmosphere

HADEAN Event 14

Parent event	13
Offspring events	none

more than life on a planet, the earth itself is
an ecology, a living planet

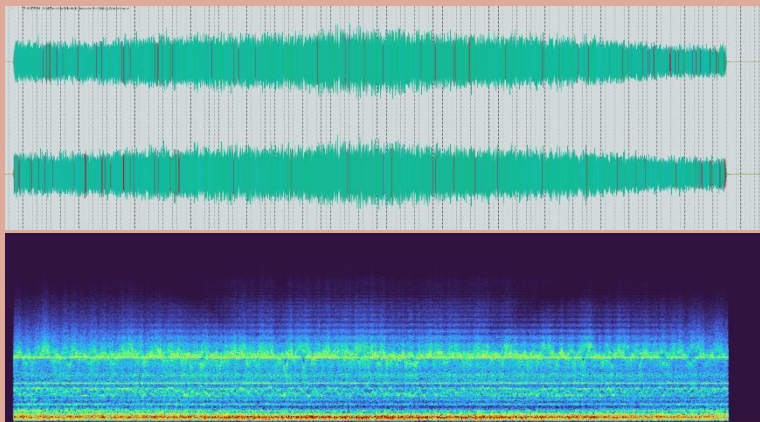


And Deathly Winds blow over the Living Waters

HADEAN Event 15

Parent event	02
Offspring events	16, 19

billions of years are needed for lifeforms to emerge from the water



On scientific content as artistic inspiration

The new BIG STORIES are all told by science, their scope is vast, and their telling has only begun relatively recently. We are daily getting updates on answers to all the ancient basic questions of life that inspired human art, cultures, and religions for millennia, and we are getting *verifiable* answers this time. Most important is perhaps that we are also facing completely new questions.

It is high time the old myths and beliefs are abandoned and replaced by contemporary, that is to say: *scientific* sources of information, imagination, and inspiration. The vast field of modern science is far more complex, has a verifiable and direct relation to reality, and it offers a far greater abundance of possible stories and references for artists in all disciplines than any older belief or myth system, however poetic, could ever come up with¹.

In our times we need new and innovative music in all genres, whether electronic or no; let these leave behind the stories of our alleged past and use such new narrative sources as our present times offer for reference and inspiration.

¹ as was fantastically demonstrated by writers such as Stanislaw Lem (The Cyberiad), Primo Levi (The Periodic Table), and Italo Calvino (The Complete Cosmicomics).

Oscar van Dillen

Oscar Ignatius Joannes van Dillen ('s-Hertogenbosch 1958), flutist, composer, and 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 composition, improvisation, music theory, and music history 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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music is sound and silence



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