Environment & Society Portal

Multimedia Library Collection: Periodicals

"Shaping an Ear for Climate Change: The Silarjuapomorphizing Music of Alaskan Composer John Luther Adams"

Chisholm, Dianne

Chisholm, Dianne. "Shaping an Ear for Climate Change: The Silarjuapomorphizing Music of Alaskan Composer John Luther Adams." *Environmental Humanities* 8, no. 2 (2016): 172-95. doi:10.1215/22011919-3664211.

How does contemporary music cultivate ecological thinking and climate-change awareness in our era of global warming? This essay investigates how the music of Pulitzer Prize–winning Alaskan composer John Luther Adams incites ecological listening and shapes an ear for climate change. It examines Adams's evolving signature style of composing and/or performing with climatic elements and natural forces, and it further examines how this style effectively attunes audiences to ongoing environmental events that weather the world outside the concert hall. In other words, it investigates the idea and play of "Sila" in Adams's work, Sila being a concept that Adams derives from the Inuit to signify in the largest possible sense the weather, its cosmic and chaotic modalities, and the wisdom that attends to them. (Text from author's abstract)

© Dianne Chisholm 2016. *Environmental Humanities* is available online only and is published under a Creative Commons license (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).

Download:
PDF:
https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/environmental_humanities-2016-chisholm-172-95.pdf

Related links:

- *Environmental Humanities* website
  http://environmentalhumanities.org/
- *Environmental Humanities* 8, no. 2
  http://environmentalhumanities.dukejournals.org/content/8/2.toc

Periodicals Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"Shaping an Ear for Climate Change: The Silarjuapomorphizing Music of Alaskan Composer John Luther Adams"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/8046
Print date: 31 October 2026 14:06:08

Periodicals Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"Shaping an Ear for Climate Change: The Silarjuapomorphizing Music of Alaskan Composer John Luther Adams"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/8046
Print date: 31 October 2026 14:06:08