



Kosmos

Tim Kliphuis
Maya Fridman
Marc van Roon

Kosmos

Tim Kliphuis violin, compositions

Maya Fridman cello

Marc van Roon piano

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11	Kosmos*	2:41
	composed by Tim Kliphuis, Maya Fridman & Marc van Roon	
12	Finale	4:05

About this album

My name is Tim Kliphuis. I play the violin and compose. I love the planet and am increasingly concerned about our future on it. So I decided to write music about this. And what better way to learn about our life on Earth than through listening to the stories of scientists?

Kosmos is a tribute to the eight scientists with whom I spoke at length. Our conversations were intimate and candid. Five of them can be heard online in the Dutch public radio (NTR) podcast *Componeren of Verzuipen* (only in Dutch, sorry).

It was personally challenging to learn the facts about climate change. It depressed me. But talking to these professionals, all of whom shared their time generously, gave me hope again. Because they decide to be part of a solution, not of the problem. Just like you and me can decide this for ourselves, too. Nine of the following pieces were based on my talks with the scientists:

Entropy

Dr. Gideon Koekoek (theoretical physics, University of Maastricht) loves to explain how general relativity and gravitational waves work, and successfully brings science to a wider audience. But he has a big concern about the future: because of our desire for eternal growth, we are gradually depleting the amount of energy that we can use.

Plankton

Dr. Katja Peijnenburg (evolutionary biologist at University of Amsterdam and Naturalis Museum Leiden), shows through her plankton research how the ocean is changing: "I fight to remain optimistic, so that I can keep making people marvel at all the wonders of the ocean and inspire them to do what is right. We do not live on Planet Earth, but on Planet Water."

Quarks

Prof. Robbert Dijkgraaf (theoretical physics, University of Amsterdam) was still Minister of Education, Culture and Science when we spoke. We talked about the smallest particles, how string theory mimics a violin string and how science talks about what is already there, but the arts instead show us possible paths into the future.

Utopia

Prof. Ingrid Robeyns (political philosopher at Utrecht University) talks about a fairer society. She wrote an international bestseller about setting a wealth limit, using Aristotle's moral teachings as a reference: "I am angry, but even more surprised, how irrationally and immorally people in power act with regard to the climate crisis."

Ice

Prof. Appy Sluijs (paleoceanographer at University of Utrecht) discovered that 55 million years ago, palm trees grew on the North Pole. He researches what impact the warming climate will have on our lives: "As a scientist, I oscillate between hope and fear. There seems to be little political will to solve the climate problem; at the same time, there is a lot of motivation in society, and that gives me hope."

Walden

Walden is dedicated to Irene Witmer.

Gaia

Prof. Amina Helmi (astronomer at Kapteijn Institute, Groningen University), proved that the Milky Way was born from a clash of two galaxies, before the Sun was born: "Astronomy gives us perspective. The sky shows us how small we are compared to the universe. And yet, our footprint is too large. We are all on one ship, space ship Earth."

Earth

Earth is dedicated to Janneke van Prooijen.

Drift

Prof. Erik van Sebille (oceanographer at University of Utrecht) chases all the plastic in the ocean, tracking its origins — and where it eventually ends up. He explains our bad treatment of the seas not as an individual, but as a systemic problem. So how do we change this? By all becoming ambassadors for the planet again.

Chimborazo

Prof. Bernice Bovenkerk (animal ethics philosopher at Wageningen University) looks at the relationship between humans and animals, with a focus on technology and climate justice. If the Iberian lynx has to move into France because of human-made climate change, should we move the Spanish rabbits up north too, so the lynx can continue to eat?

Kosmos

Kosmos is dedicated to Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) who, after his long trip to South America, became the first scientist to see that our actions on earth could influence the climate.

Finale

Finale is written in memory of Dieuwertje Blok.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks go to Andrea Wulf, Prof. Louise Fresco, Olga Crapels and Hannah Soepenbergh. This album was made possible with support from Fonds Podiumkunsten and SENA Muziekproductiefonds, TRPTK and Stichting Het Wereldorkest.



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A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'Brendon Hunst'.

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Credits

Producer & recording/mastering engineer Brendon Heinst
Editors Hans Erblich, Tim Kliphuis, Maya Fridman & Brendon Heinst
Artwork Brendon Heinst

Recording dates January 22nd 2024, July 3rd & 4th 2025
Recording location Westvest90 Church, Schiedam (NL)
Recording format PCM 352.8kHz 32bit

Equipment

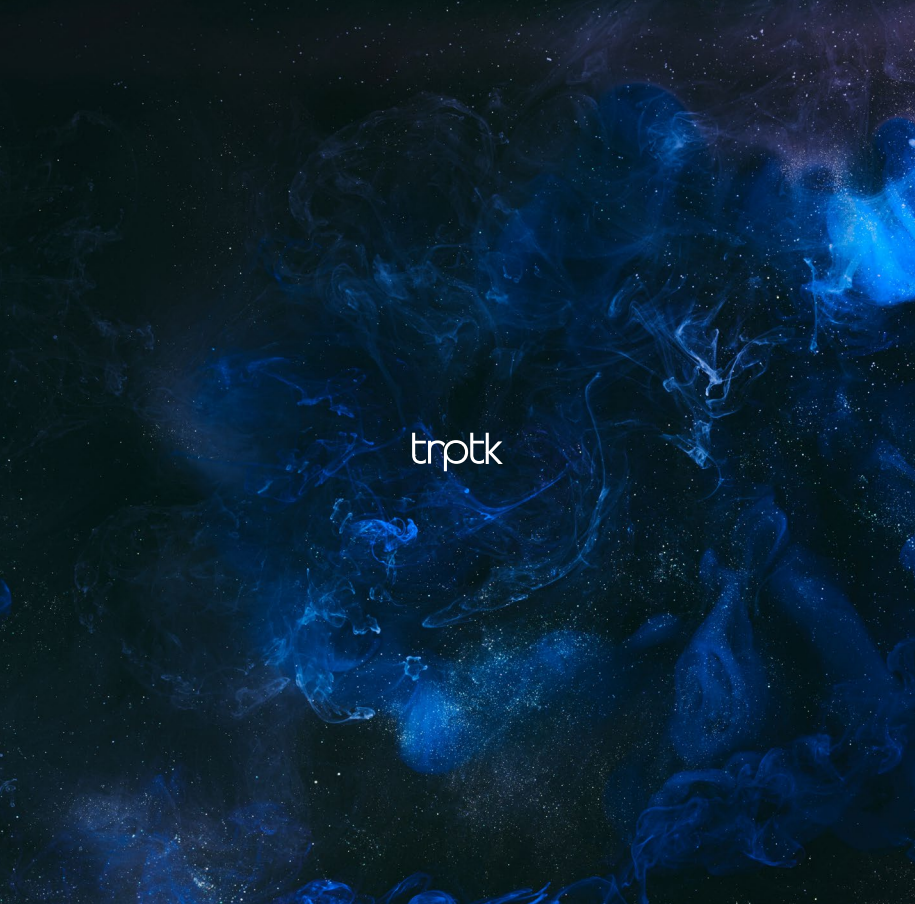
Microphones Josephson Engineering C617, Ehrlund EHR-M
Microphone preamplifiers Grace Design m802mk2
AD/DA conversion Merging Technologies Hapi MkII
Headphones Audeze LCD-X
Loudspeakers Grimm Audio LS1be (main), Genelec 8030CP (height)
Cabling Purecable Optimus Series
Tuning Pura Power Supplies linear power supplies and power conditioners

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The image features a dark, almost black background filled with intricate, swirling patterns of a vibrant blue color. These patterns resemble smoke, ink, or nebulae, creating a sense of movement and depth. The blue elements are most concentrated in the center and right side, with some lighter, more ethereal wisps extending towards the left. In the center of the image, the text 'trptk' is displayed in a clean, white, lowercase sans-serif font. The overall composition is artistic and atmospheric, with the text serving as a focal point against the complex, organic-looking background.

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