

Philippe Jaroussky's playlist (ENG) | 2020 World Environment Day

1. Antonio Vivaldi: Zeffiretti, che sussurrate (Cecilia Bartoli, The Vivaldi Album)

Vivaldi is probably one of the composers who most enjoyed imitating the sounds of Nature – we need merely think of The Four Seasons. I love this aria, which gives you the impression of being stretched out in the grass in a field in springtime, listening to the murmur of the breeze along with birds singing. Cecilia Bartoli's voice magically interprets this simultaneous sensation of exaltation and calm that Nature can give us if we will but take the time to stop for a moment and listen.

2. Claude Debussy, La Mer / Finale: Dialogue du vent et de la mer

Composed far from the seashore, in the middle of the countryside of Burgundy, this is no doubt one of the greatest Impressionist scores ever written. This last movement shows how much more powerful Nature is than human beings. An intoxicating and magnificent musical tidal wave!

3. Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald: April in Paris

One of my favourite songs: you want to listen to it over and over walking through the streets and parks of Paris. Not only do we want to preserve Nature's open spaces, we also need to rethink its place in urban daily life.

4. Camille Saint-Saëns: Le Carnaval des animaux (Carnival of the Animals) / Finale

The finale, which blends the sounds of most of the animals previously mentioned in the work, is a noisy whirlwind, joyful and vibrant, a kind of hymn to threatened biodiversity.

5. George Frideric Handel: Ombra mai fu, version by Philippe Jaroussky

This very well-known piece is perhaps the first 'eco-friendly' aria, with Xerxes making a true declaration of love to a tree!

6. Sting: Fragile

Sting was one of the first artists to campaign for protection of the Amazon jungle forest. He has shown to what extent we artists can help change mentalities more quickly. For me, this makes him an exemplary artist. I have selected his song for its refrain: 'On and on the rain will fall, Like tears from a star, On and on the rain will say, How fragile we are'.

7. Edvard Grieg: Suite from 'Peer Gynt' / Morning

With just a few notes at the start on the flute, Grieg depicts for us the miracle of the sunrise and its beauty, something we forget far too often to observe amidst our hectic lives.

8. Michael Jackson: Heal the world

With this song, which nowadays may appear a bit naïve, Michael Jackson conveyed a powerful message: to heal the world is to build a better place to live for us all and for future generations.

9. Olivier Messiaen: Le Merle noir

Early on, Messiaen became interested in birdsong and their musical complexity, which he tried to transcribe with great humility. After hearing a blackbird or a nightingale sing, who can say that music is only a human talent?

10. Philip Glass: Hymn to the Sun

In this aria, Pharoah Akhenaten pays tribute to the sun, source of all life on Earth. This lovely music helps us feel the warmth of its rays on our skin. Hypnotic and cosmic!