

Global Sunrise EP: The musical sounds of dawn

A never-ending wave of bird song follows the rhythm of the earth's rotation, as if the sun never stops rising and the birds never stop singing.

A combination of beauty and precision since time immemorial

Each day when the sun reaches six degrees below the eastern horizon, enough ambient light is created to distinguish objects and the birds begin to vocalize. This event is so well regimented that some bird species serve as early-morning alarm clocks. Birds evolved to vocalize at dawn, presumably to take advantage of the transmissive, non-turbulent atmospheric conditions that are frequently present at this time of day. Vocalizations may range from simple calls to elaborate songs and serve a variety of functions (e.g., territory identification, mate advertising, family bonding, etc.), depending on the species involved and the season.

Changing medleys of bird voices distinguish one dawn chorus from another, and the order of species vocalization further characterizes each locality. Insect-feeding birds are the first to sing; grain-feeding birds are the last. The composition of the dawn chorus is so expressive that it is possible to correctly identify a place, the season, and the time of day strictly on the basis of the recorded chorus alone. The dawn chorus, like dawn itself, has circled the planet as an endless wave for millions of years. In this respect, the global dawn chorus is one long song with a composition that has paralleled the evolution and population dynamics of birds. It is precisely this perspective, "Planet Earth as a musical instrument," that *Global Sunrise* explores.

Sit back and relax — you are about to fly with the natural music of dawn. We begin in the Ecuadorian Amazon at a place so remote that it is still possible to walk for 1200 miles without crossing a road. The sun's rays arcing across a 23.5°-tilted Earth light a path through Central America, western North America, then on to the Hawaiian Islands and across the vast Australian Outback, before reaching the small Asian island of Sri Lanka. We then visit the hot tropical desert known as the Kalahari. Still arcing forward in longitude, we descend once again to the Amazon, first in Brazil and then home to Ecuador.

If you have stereo headphones, you are in for a special treat. Each individual sound portrait that fades gradually into another, merging one location into another, was recorded using a human-head microphone system that replicates the 360° sense of human hearing. Magically, you will hear not just left, center, or right, but you will be immersed in the wild natural world of our ancestors.

This EP version is 21 min. 35 seconds long.

start	stop	location	
00:00	04:18	Ecuador	River currents quiet but surging at times with varying insects and frogs. Includes distant howler monkey .
02:58	05:27	Belize	Gray-headed Dove calls, Ivory-billed Woodcreeper trills more in background; bits of voices of Lesser Greenlet , Tawny-crowned Greenlet , Black-throated Shrike-Tanager , Red-throated Ant-tanager harsh notes.
04:39	05:50	Belize	Tropical forest bird activity, occasional water drops,
05:30	06:42	Western US	Northern Mockingbird , Canyon Towhee , Mourning Dove , House Finch , Cactus Wren , Gambel's Quail , Black-chinned Hummingbird wings, cactus wind.
06:25	07:49	Western US	Mourning Dove , Chukar , Dusky Flycatcher , Spotted Towhee , drone is naturally caused by numerous hummingbird wings.
07:02	08:18	Western US	Mourning Dove and Dusky Flycatcher with Coyote chorus and soft wind.
07:10	08:26	Western US	Coyote chorus with prominent crickets , distant Dusky Flycatcher
07:50	09:59	Western US	Common Yellowthroat , Song Sparrow , Red-winged Blackbird , Yellow-headed Blackbird , Mourning Dove , American Coot , Black-billed Magpie , Sora , Western Meadowlark . Background with American Bittern , Eastern Kingbird , Ring-necked Pheasant .
08:55	10:19	Western US	Varied Thrush song and Pacific Chorus Frog background becoming foreground. Faint ocean roar from miles distant. Birds also present are Pacific Wren and American Robin .
09:26	10:50	Western US	Crows and delicate waves lap on seashells, White-crowned Sparrow , Glaucous-winged Gull distant, deep breath of marine mammal (faint).
09:50	10:25	Hawaiian Is.	Coastal palm wind and distant waves on lava cliff with deep roar.
10:18	11:29	Hawaiian Is.	Zebra Dove and Common Myna , also present are

			Spotted Dove and Japanese White-eye . Faint hum of winged insects.
10:54	12:19	Hawaiian Is.	Hawaii Amakihi , Apapane , House Finch , Japanese White-eye and Sky Lark .
11:06	11:48	Hawaiian Is.	Apapane .
11:38	13:48	Australia	Green Oriole , Northern Fantail , Paperbark Flycatcher , Lemon-bellied Flyrobin , Bar-shouldered Dove , Grey-crowned Babbler , Brown Honeyeater , Double-barred Finch , Pheasant Coucal , White-gaped Honeyeater , Peaceful Dove , Red-tailed Black Cockatoos , Rufous Whistler .
11:57	13:05	Australia	Lemon-bellied Flyrobin , Torresian Crow , Red-collared Lorikeet , Rufous-banded Honeyeater , Willie Wagtail , Brolga , Bar-shouldered Dove , Green Oriole
11:58	13:42	Australia	Lemon-bellied Flyrobin , Blue-winged Kookaburras , Rufous Whistler , distant Bush Stone-curlew .
12:40	14:21	Asia	
13:11	14:46	Asia	
14:30	17:21	Africa	
14:59	17:00	Africa	
16:35	19:01	Brazil	
17:05	20:02	Brazil	Screaming Piha and stream.
18:40	21:35	Ecuador	Return to place of origin while paddling in dugout canoe. Booming sound caused by Caiman jaw snaps. Howler Monkey nearly continuous in background.