

David Rothenberg

Distinguished Professor at New Jersey Institute of Technology

Newark, NJ, US

Through writing and music, David Rothenberg explores the relationship between humans and nature.

Biography

David Rothenberg is a distinguished professor of humanities and social sciences who investigates the musicality of animals and the role of nature in philosophy. He is the author of *Why Birds Sing*, which was turned into a feature length BBC TV documentary, and *Thousand Mile Song*, which chronicles making music with whales and inspired a film on French TV. As a composer and jazz clarinetist, Rothenberg has recorded more than a dozen CDs, including *On the Cliffs*, *One Dark Night I Left My Silent House*, *Whale Music* and *Expulsion of the Triumphant Beast*. Also a clarinetist, he loves to jam with cicadas, the hoards of whirring insects that arise every 17 years. He not only leads cicada jams with other musicians but can identify the three distinct sounds the bugs make during their massive mating call. So, for him, cicadas spark both his heart and brain. As he explains, "Playing along with these guys is like joining into a fantastic trove with millions of singers."

Areas of Expertise

Bird Music, Humanity, Musicality of Animals, Human Computer Musical Interfaces, Environmental Philosophy, Music and Technology, Interspecies Communication, Nature, Cicada Music

Education

Boston University

Ph.D.

Harvard College

B.A.

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