

Taking it to the streets - do we really need a message?

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The author, though associated with a climate research firm, is taking up the subject of voluntary public outreach by way of designing and performing a programme of climate change-related texts and music. The general idea is to bring listeners in a pensive, reflective mood, sharing musings about the “nature of nature” and its changes. One of the aspects that came up when working on the programme is that there ought to be a “message” and how it should be brought across to the audience. Global change, including climate change, has aspects that connect on an almost subconscious level. Consequently there is a fine line between being overly arbitrary and revealing too much or saying the obvious. Thus it will be discussed in which way the endeavour to weave such a message into a programme of that kind can be thought of as the flip sides of one coin. Furthermore, experiences from post-performance discussion are presented. One unexpected and substantially more basic experience when actually performing the programme was that there is a widespread confusion of what the terms “weather” and “climate” mean, for example. Time and facilities permitting a few examples from the chosen texts and music will be given.