

*...and nature is alone* (2005, revised 2015) [10:51]

in memory of the victims of the Chernobyl accident on the 30th anniversary of the disaster

an electroacoustic presentation designed for 8-channel performance

by Scott A. Wyatt

program notes:

In the early morning hours of April 26, 1986, a testing error caused an explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in northern Ukraine. The explosion of the reactor released 100 times more radiation than the atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The radioactive fire burned for 9 days, expelling more than 190 tons of toxic materials into the atmosphere. A vast area of Asia and Eastern Europe was contaminated with nuclear fallout. Almost 30 years later, the people of Belarus and Ukraine continue to suffer medically, economically, environmentally, and socially from the effects of the disaster.

This piece is dedicated to the memory of those who experienced the horror of the world's worst nuclear accident – Chernobyl, and to the living who continue to experience the ramifications of such a disaster. The text, written by Elena Filatova, who actually takes rides into the "dead zone," was performed for this presentation by University of Illinois Associate Professor Valeria Sobol of Slavic Languages & Literature, who was a schoolgirl in Kiev at the time of the tragedy. Appreciation is expressed to Rena Himick for contributing her vocalizations to this project. All would like you to remember what happened here. -SAW

bio:

Scott Wyatt, Professor Emeritus of Music Composition, has actively served as a faculty member of the University of Illinois School of Music teaching music composition, music theory, and electroacoustic music, as well as serving as director of the University of Illinois Experimental Music Studios for 40 years. He retired from this position in May 2016, yet remains a consultant to the Experimental Music Studios. As a composer of concert art music, he has composed works for theatre, voice, acoustic instruments, small and large ensembles, orchestra, electroacoustic music, and music for a variety of media including modern dance, documentary film, radio, television, and large scale laser presentations. Among other honors that he has received, Wyatt was one of the winners of the International Society for Contemporary Music National Composers Competition of 1978, the National Flute Association's 1979 Composition Competition, the 1979 Concorso Internazionale Luigi Russolo Composition Competition in Italy, the 1984 International Confederation of Electro-Acoustic Music GRAND PRIZE at the 12th annual International Electro-Acoustic Music Competition in Bourges, France, and a finalist in the 1989 Bourges Competition. He was the 1990 recipient of an Arnold Beckman Research Award for the development of digital timescaling applications, and among others, several 1996-2011 grants for the development of a specific compositional and live performance methodology for eight-channel sound diffusion. Professor Wyatt also received a 1991 Illinois Arts Council finalist award, several FAA College special projects faculty award grants for digital image processing, a 1994 Educational Technologies Assistance Grant, and several recent FAA College special projects grants in support of course development. In 1997, he was awarded the UIUC College of Fine and Applied Arts Outstanding Faculty Award, and in 1998 he was appointed as an Associate in the UIUC Center for Advanced Study, one of the highest honors the University of Illinois bestows upon its faculty. Professor Wyatt also served as an invited member of the international jury for the 2000 Bourges International Electroacoustic Music Competition in Bourges, France. His current research involves the development and application of positional three-dimensional audio imaging for multi-channel audio. In 2008, he received a Fine and Applied Arts Creative Research Award for the collaborative research/composition/performance of *Risky Business*: a tribute to Nikola Tesla, composition for electroacoustic music with live Continuum performance and two giant Tesla Coils. Most recently, Scott Wyatt was guest composer at Ball State University, the University of Chicago, the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, IUPUI (Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis), Indiana University Jacobs School of Music,

the University of Oregon School of Music, Roosevelt University, and the University of West Virginia School of Music. Among many other performances, his compositions were also selected for performances at the 2008-2016 national conferences of the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS). He served as president of SEAMUS from 1989 until 1996, and he remained on its Board of Directors, while also continuing to serve as director, engineer, and producer of the Music from SEAMUS compact disc recording series through 2016. His compositions are recorded on CAPSTONE, CENTAUR, GMEB Cultures Electroniques Series, Library of Congress, MARK, OFFICE, Music from SEAMUS, UBRES, and VERIATZA recordings.