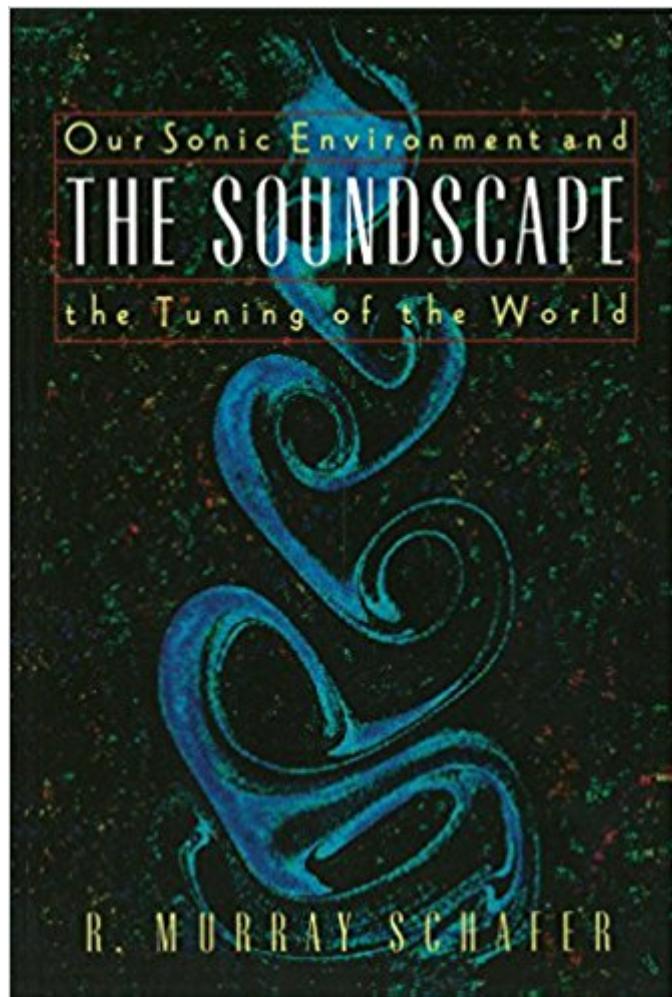


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# The Soundscape



## **Synopsis**

The soundscape--a term coined by the author--is our sonic environment, the ever-present array of noises with which we all live. Beginning with the primordial sounds of nature, we have experienced an ever-increasing complexity of our sonic surroundings. As civilization develops, new noises rise up around us: from the creaking wheel, the clang of the blacksmith's hammer, and the distant chugging of steam trains to the "sound imperialism" of airports, city streets, and factories. The author contends that we now suffer from an overabundance of acoustic information and a proportionate diminishing of our ability to hear the nuances and subtleties of sound. Our task, he maintains, is to listen, analyze, and make distinctions. As a society we have become more aware of the toxic wastes that can enter our bodies through the air we breathe and the water we drink. In fact, the pollution of our sonic environment is no less real. Schafer emphasizes the importance of discerning the sounds that enrich and feed us and using them to create healthier environments. To this end, he explains how to classify sounds, appreciating their beauty or ugliness, and provides exercises and "soundwalks" to help us become more discriminating and sensitive to the sounds around us. This book is a pioneering exploration of our acoustic environment, past and present, and an attempt to imagine what it might become in the future.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

When R. Murray Schafer first published TUNING OF THE WORLD (the subtitle of this edition) in 1977, it had a stunning and lasting affect on musicians and recordists throughout the world. Every

facet of this work is important to know about and the narrative still reads like a contemporary novel - impossible to put down and never dated. He informs us how to re-train our ears to listen better and more wisely. He defines, for the first time, the soundscape and the myriad ways it fits into and affects our lives. This book is seminal to my work as a naturalist and sound designer and I have read it many times in the past three decades. It is that important. Bernie Krause, PhD

This book is essential if you are working anywhere in the Audio Industry. It gives you the necessary appreciation, and application of sound, in and out, while allowing for silence to be equally as relavent. R. Murray Schafer is the God of The Soundscape!

I read the first edition 20+ years ago and have always since tried to turn my musician friends on to it. If you compose, produce or do any type of sound design the info in this book is essential. It really opened my ears and my mind. Great book.

Even though this book has been around for a good while, it is still a necessary read. How we have altered our sonic society and fallen out of touch with sound is truly startling. You really must read this, and investigate how much you really don't hear!

This is must-read for anyone interested in the history of the sounds that human activities and enterprises make. And he relates these to developments in music history. In addition, he challenges us to listen to our environment and improve them sonically.

This book will change the way you listen to the world around you at any given moment. It was a revelation for me. I cherish it and, even though it may sound slightly hyperbolic, it has changed my life.

Important work on soundscape and sound analysis.

Stumbled upon this as an user recommendation. Very cool general reading about sound and psychology.

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