**“From *Naturbeherrschung* to *Naturbewahrung*. Or, where I was and where I will go.”**

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The most useful and stimulating ideas I have acquired from studying 20th-century music and aesthetics are, perhaps surprisingly, ideas about nature. These ideas are useful because they provide insight into certain trends of the period, and they are stimulating because they resonate with my core interests and values. But these same ideas have made me aware of the limitations of my academic work. Specifically, they made me realize that the benefit of my prior academic work was not great enough to justify the years I dedicated to it. But this raises a question: what would be great enough? What kind of work would justify years of dedication? This lecture provides a personal answer to that question, and it describes my turn from a theory about the domination of nature to a practice concerned with the preservation of nature. It proceeds in 12 steps, which are grouped into accounts of the past, present, and future. The account of the past, or where I was, includes a description of my (former) research on serial music and aesthetics and that which led me to the present. The account of the present represents a turning point in my thinking and practice. The account of the future, or where I will go, outlines my plans for coming research and action: a project that will bring together researchers in the humanities (musicology) and natural sciences (landscape ecology) to map local soundscapes, cultures, and ecosystems affected by development and the climate crisis.