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## The Sound Environment: A part of the Ecological Crisis

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June 15, 1998

For immediate release:

Stockholm, Hey Listen! was the title of a conference on acoustic ecology held in Stockholm from June 9th to June 13th, ending with a gigantic concert of all the church bells of the city. The subtitle *From Awareness to Action*; indicated that practical and political strategies to improve the sound environment all over the world are urgently needed.

The conference dealt with critical issues facing the international acoustic ecology community. These included the design of a more balanced and imaginative acoustic environment, the impact of our changing technologies, our ways of listening and our awareness of sound.

Over a hundred participants from eighteen countries attended, including scientists, acousticians, urban planners, architects, sound designers, performers, artists and environmental activists.

Among the keynote speakers were composer and pedagogue R. Murray Schafer (Canada), philosopher Arne Naess (Norway), Professor and environmental psychologist Arline L. Bronzaft (New York), Xavier Bonnefoy (World Health Organization) and Ms. Anna Lindh, Swedish Minister of the Environment.

A resolution was adopted by the conference, outlining suggestions to improve the sound environment (attached).

The conference was organized by the Royal Swedish Academy of Music in partnership with the World Health Organization and the World Forum for Acoustic Ecology, an international organization founded in 1993 in Banff, Canada.

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### Resolution

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*The following resolution was adopted by the general assembly of the conference Hör upp! Stockholm, Hey Listen!, organised by the Royal Swedish Academy of Music in partner-ship with the World Forum for Acoustic Ecology (WFAE), Stockholm-Cultural Capital of Europe '98 and World Health Organization (WHO) in Stockholm, June 9-13, 1998.*

In recognition of the fact that sound is of vital importance in forming our relationship with the world, the general assembly of the conference *Hör upp! Stockholm Hey Listen!* recommends to individuals, organisations and authorities everywhere the following actions:

1. To enhance a sense of privacy of the individual's sonic space.
2. To support the development of sound-oriented educational programs at all levels from childhood onwards, and to initiate research into all aspects of the sonic environment.
3. To improve the sound design in objects and media, and to support programs for the training of sound designers.

4. To create and enforce legislation to protect the acoustic environment and the public health; both aimed at ensuring a better quality of life.

We believe that these objectives can best be accomplished through co-operation of individuals, institutions and the private sector.

In conclusion we wish to draw public attention to the important initiatives already undertaken to these ends in the *Manifesto for a Better Sound Environment* by the Royal Swedish Academy of Music, the Mission Statement of the World Forum for Acoustic Ecology, and in the *Report and Resolution of the Soundscape Research Study Group* of the present conference.

Stockholm, June 13th 1998

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