CD 1

Whale Nation

1. Ancient evolution  2:28
2. Intelligence       1:01
3. Whale games       2:56
4. Lyrical litanies  6:49
5. Echo location and communication  3:02
6. Gargantuan dimensions  4:36
7. To the mating grounds  7:57
8. Maternal instincts  1:41
9. At the hands of man  7:21
10. Materialist societies  5:48
11. The disappearing species  2:35
12. The dolphin – divine and exploited  4:14
13. Death and destruction  4:26
14. The dominant species  2:30

Total time on CD 1: 57:32
CD 2

On the Nature of Whales

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Facts and Figures</td>
<td>5:31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Song</td>
<td>11:42</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Behaviour</td>
<td>13:02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>3:18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hunting</td>
<td>6:40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Products</td>
<td>6:56</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Profits</td>
<td>7:02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Myths and Legends</td>
<td>5:56</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>3:29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total time on CD 2: 63:42
Total time on CDs 1 and 2: 2:01:14
Actor/writer Heathcote Williams had already started work on what was later to become his poem, *Sacred Elephant*, when in the mid-1980s he started, inexplicably, to have vivid extended dreams about whales. Director Ken Campbell, on hearing this, encouraged him to write a piece about these mysterious creatures for his underwater theatre in Liverpool. So *Whale Nation* came into being, a celebratory epic portraying the history, life and habits of whales and dolphins and their exploitation at the hands of man.

It was performed many times in a stage production with pictures and whale song, initially by the author himself and then toured extensively by actor Roy Hutchens in venues as varied as The National Theatre and the Natural History Museum, London and the Steinhart Aquarium, San Francisco.

The poem was published by Jonathan Cape in 1988 and was coupled with an extraordinary anthology of facts and figures, *On The Nature of Whales*.

The poet Ted Hughes wrote: ‘The poem is overwhelming…brilliant, cunning, dramatic and wonderfully moving, a steady accumulation of grandeur and dreadfulness and never any sense of exploiting the subject for poetic or literary effects, just a measured unfolding of real things from the heart of the subject.’

Undoubtedly a work of this kind has stirred consciences all over the world. In presenting the subject and its stark realities in such an uncompromising manner, it has been a catalyst both in environmental and emotional terms. Performances have inspired the creation of branches of the environmental group Greenpeace; and many people have related that the poem has directly challenged their thoughts and views on today’s society, its ever increasing
materialism and ruthless greed.

More recently, the book has been described as an icon of anti-consumerism.

Whale Nation has been a best-seller worldwide and has, therefore, touched many peoples but it is significant that despite strenuous efforts, the book has still not been published in Japan, Norway or Russia – the three nations which still maintain their right to whale.

In 1983, the explorer and adventurer Thor Heyerdahl wrote, ‘it is not everybody’s fortune to have had bedside company with whales in their own free playground, but those of us who have feel an urge to support the growing majority of mankind that demands that the tiny minority who threatens the remaining whale species with complete extinction for personal economic gains should be forced to leave the whales in peace until able to multiply for the benefit of future generations on this planet.’

Whale Nation was the first of a series of extended poems written by Heathcote Williams on subjects of environmental concern. The others, which have also had a considerable effect, are: Falling for a Dolphin (1988); Sacred Elephant (1989) and Autogeddon (1991).

Although they brought Williams’ work to a broad public, he had already established himself as a poet and playwright – his AC/DC was produced at London’s Royal Court and won numerous awards in the UK and the US. Other plays include Hancock’s Last Half Hour, and The Immortalist. As an actor he has been equally versatile, playing Prospero in Derek Jarman’s film of The Tempest and Dr Haggage in Little Dorrit.

Notes by Sarah Butcher
The music on this recording is taken from the NAXOS and MARCO POLO catalogues

**MENDELSSOHN** CALM SEA AND PROSPEROUS VOYAGE
Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra/Oliver Dohnányi

**HOLST** THE PLANETS (NEPTUNE)
Czecho-Slovak RSO/Adrian Leaper

**BACH** MASS IN B MINOR
Capella Istropolitana/Christian Brembeck

**MOZART** REQUIEM
Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus/Zdenek Kosler

**BRAHMS** SYMPHONY NO 1
BRT Philharmonic, Brussels/Alexander Rahbari

**DEBUSSY** LA MER
BRT Philharmonic, Brussels/Alexander Rahbari

**CIURLIONIS** THE SEA
Slovak Philharmonic/Juozas Domarkas

**WHALE MUSIC**

LES CHANTS DE LA BALEINE A BOSSE
by courtesy of World of Sounds, France.

Cover picture: Photograph by Paulo Curto/The Image Bank
Harry Burton is a highly versatile actor. A familiar figure in British theatre, in London’s West End and the Fringe, he has become equally known for taking leading operatic roles including Mozart (Figaro and Leporello) and Rossini (Dandini) at the South Bank, the Vienna Festival and on TV. He is also regularly seen on TV.

Caroline Webster works extensively in UK TV, radio and theatre. She has appeared in no fewer than four Alan Ayckbourn plays – three of them directed by the playwright – both in Scarborough and the Royal National Theatre, London.
For a complete catalogue and to order other Naxos AudioBooks titles please contact:

**In the UK:** Naxos AudioBooks, Select Music & Video Distribution, 3 Wells Place, Redhill, Surrey RH1 3SL. Tel: 01737 645600.

**In Ireland:** Cosmic Sounds Ltd., 1a Farmhill Road, Goatstown, Dublin 14. Tel: +353 1 298 6551

**In the USA:** Naxos of America Inc., 416 Mary Lindsay Polk Drive, Suite 509, Franklin, Tennessee TN37067. Tel: +1 615 771 9393

**In Australia:** Select Audio/Visual Distribution Pty. Ltd., PO Box 691, Brookvale, NSW 2100. Tel: +61 299481811

**In New Zealand:** Triton Music Ltd., P.O. Box 100-899, NSMC, Auckland. Tel: +64 947 83936

order online at

[www.naxosaudiobooks.com](http://www.naxosaudiobooks.com)
Whales are a widely distributed and diverse group of fully aquatic placental marine mammals. They are an informal grouping within the infraorder Cetacea, usually excluding dolphins and porpoises. Whales, dolphins and porpoises belong to the order Cetartiodactyla, which consists of even-toed ungulates. Their closest living relatives are the hippopotamuses, having diverged about 40 million years ago. The two parvorders of whales, baleen whales (Mysticeti) and toothed whales (Odontoceti), are thought to have diverged about 40 million years ago. Photographer José Javier Delgado Esteban was awarded First Prize in Wildlife / Animals for the entry entitled Whale Nation: Humpback Whales of the Pacific. Bronze Medal "International Photographer of the Year Award 2016". Very happy to have received a Bronze Medal (Third place winner) on the Nature category from IPOTY - International Photographer of the Year for our work with Humpback Whales of the South Pacific selected from more than 3,000 entries. Tweet. Home. Whale Nation known. The nation in which Whales are supreme. Sea world contains whales apart of Whale Nation. by ImAWhale135 April 19, 2018. 0. 0. Get a Whale Nation mug for your buddy Günter. buy the domain for your travel site. whalenation.fun.