

PRESS RELEASE

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‘Old Growth Echoes’ Peaceful Film Released

The peacefulness of an old growth forest

Two Vancouver Island artists have teamed up and made a song and short film about Island old growth forest. Duncan musician Brian Richardson has created an original instrumental song called ‘Old Growth Echoes’. North Cowichan artist Richie Valley listened to the song, then shot video to complement it. The result is ‘Old Growth Echoes’ movie and soundtrack, a calming peaceful portrayal of an old growth forest.

When asked what he liked the best about the video Mr. Richardson said “I really like how the video pans up the trees and gives a sense of how enormous they are. Also I like the fact that it includes fallen logs that are decomposing back into the forest, an ongoing cycle. I also like that it shows clean, clear water which is an essential part of the old growth forest.”

Richie Valley took a trip to Cathedral Grove in February to shoot the raw footage, and record the soothing sound of the Cameron River. It’s his seventh video and runs just over five minutes long. Brian’s ‘Old Growth Echoes’ song comprises most of the soundtrack.

Asked why he created ‘Old Growth Echoes’ music Mr. Richardson said “I was trying to recreate and share the calmness that I feel in an old growth forest.” The song features five different bird calls as heard in their vanishing habitat.

There is some controversy about old growth forests with environmental groups opposing forest industry stakeholders. Mr. Richardson reflected “Sadly I can clearly see both sides, but I can’t see when they’ve been logging for over a hundred years that they

have to cut down old growth forest. You'd think they'd have enough second and third growth forests now - so they don't have to log old growth.”

Richie Valley relays his personal experience. Years ago he often took a forty-five minute hike through old growth forest from the West Coast Road to the mouth of the Sombrio River. He no longer does because the mountain side was clear cut almost to the beach. Mr. Valley asks “If you cut down remaining old growth forest what are you leaving to future generations?”

The birds heard in the soundtrack include a Band Tailed Pigeon, Northern Goshawk, Spotted Owl, Olive Sided Flycatcher and a Western Screech Owl. The website has a *Bird List Time Line* which makes identifying the bird calls easier. The movie also shows the bird name when their first call is made.

Mr. Richardson said that if his listeners could take just one thing away from his art he would like it to be “The peacefulness of an old growth forest.” The short film ‘Old Growth Echoes’ is online now. Browse <https://richievalley.com/video/old-growth-echoes/> for a calm relaxing moment in your day.

IMAGES

Old Growth Echoes Screenshot

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