

FOSSIL
FREE
MUSEUM-
PLEIN

DISSONANCE ACT 3

Tempest (Postlude)

EVERYTHING
SOUNDS
BETTER IN



HET
CONCERT
GEBOUW?

DISSONANCE ACT 3 TEMPEST (POSTLUDE)

01 October 2019 – Climate catastrophe is bound to cause even more drama, emotion and spectacle than ‘A Night at the Opera’ at the Concertgebouw this evening. Which is why, after the concert ended and calm returned to the Main Hall, Fossil Free Culture NL (FFC-NL) performed a postlude show by whipping up a storm of its own. No less than 10,000 sheets of musical scores with unplayable music were flung from the balcony in an orchestrated manner; simulating an unexpected weather event in an unexpected place.

With this performance, FFC-NL draws the audience’s attention to the Concertgebouw’s own dissonance. A space for the creation of beauty cannot be a space where the destruction of beauty is supported and validated. FFC-NL urges the Concertgebouw to understand that change will come and that it plays an important role in whether that change will be beastly or beautiful. Stop upholding Shell’s social license to operate; there is no music on a dead planet.

SHELL AND THE CONCERTGEBOUW

The Concertgebouw claims to be working towards sustainability. Its ‘green mission’ is funded to the tune of €500,000 per year by one of the Netherland’s biggest charities. But its commitment is undermined by its links to the fossil fuel industry. Shell pays the Concertgebouw a nominal amount to be a member of its Business Club, giving it access to lobby the rich and powerful, including politicians and the royal family. The Concertgebouw squanders its reputation and misleads its visitors by granting Shell license to operate.

ARTWASHING

Fossil fuel companies clean their image by sponsoring sports events, festivals and schools– a practice known as greenwashing. For a small slice of their enormous PR budgets, oil and gas companies can buy a false image of generosity. When they use cultural institutions to sanitise their reputation, it is artwashing. This is what Shell does with the Concertgebouw.

About Fossil Free Culture NL

We consider it our duty to liberate culture from the influence of catastrophically unethical corporations. We are a collective of artists, activists, academics and other members of the public. Art has the power to confront vested interests and preserve our planet. We channel our sadness and anger into disobedient art to end oil and gas sponsorship of public cultural institutions.

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