

## **Bare White Bones - the video and the music score**

*Bare White Bones* is a wild, rocking, dark ride of a piece of music for flute and percussion, that was commissioned from composer Wally Gunn. Tessa Brinckman and Terry Longshore (the flute and percussion duo Caballito Negro), who were part of that Gunn co-commission, initially recorded the work, and loved the piece so much that they asked film-maker Chris Lucas to create a visual narrative to complement the score.

Gunn used an excerpt of the traditional Scottish ballad "The Twa Corbies", asking his brother James Gunn to translate it into Latin, which adds to the macabre feel of the music. Both musicians whisper and hiss the poem into, and around, their instruments as they play. The bleakness and dark humor of this ballad echoes the pain of our anthropocene era, and the triumph of ancient natural cycles and beings.

### **Here's an excerpt of "The Twa Corbies":**

*quo ibimus hodie ut cenemus?*

*nuper vidi hominem occisum nec ullus scit eum ibi iacere nos bene edemus*

*assidebimus pallido in vultu eius nidificabimus aureis in comis eius erodemus  
bellos oculos caeruleos*

*et per ossa alba erosa semper ventus fluet  
semper ventus fluet turbatus*

where shall we go and dine today?

I just saw a man who has been killed and nobody knows that he lies there so we  
will eat well

we will perch on his pale face  
we will nest in his golden hair  
and I will peck out his beautiful blue eyes

and through his bare white bones the wind will blow forever  
the wind will blow a gale forever