



Insect Lullabies features ten relaxing late summer and autumn insect choruses, all recorded in the dark of the night. Enjoy our insect musicians at their best ... the lovely trills and chirps of crickets, the percussive scrapes and shuffles of katydids, enlivened by the distant hoots and howls of owls and coyotes. Imagine, in the cold of winter, falling asleep to a pulsing, simmering summer night's lullaby.

Total Time: 75 minutes

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1. Pocosin Dreams (6:00)

Recorded in the swamps of North Carolina, this relaxing chorus features the low-pitched trills of Southern Toads, the slightly higher trills of Davis' Tree Cricket, and the brief metallic trills of Jumping Bush Cricket. The high din of insect sound is made by ground crickets. You'll no doubt notice the staccato *c'tuck* calls of Carpenter Frogs and perhaps the occasional throaty *gunks* of Green Frogs in the distance. 11pm, 8 July 1994. South of Columbia, North Carolina. © Ted Mack.

2. Mesquite Nightscape (7:00)

From the dry bush country of south Texas, this bright insect chorus features Coyotes yipping and howling. Listen for the pulsating chirps of both Snowy Tree Cricket (lower in pitch) and Spring Field Cricket (higher in pitch). The very high *bzeeee* calls are from the Flatwoods Ground Cricket. 4am, 20 May 2005, near Artesia Wells, Texas. © Ted Mack.

3. Katydid Countersong (9:11)

The raucous *zay-zay* or *zay-zay-zay* calls of the Common True Katydid, given from mid-summer to early autumn, are familiar to most everyone living in eastern North America (although many misidentify them as the calls of some kind of frog). This recording from forest near the south shore of Lake Ontario has a pleasing, pulsating quality. Note how the katydids tend to alternate their calls. Listen also for the soft chirping of a Snowy Tree Cricket and the din of trilling of ground crickets. 1am, 23 August 2011. Fair Haven Beach State Park near Fair Haven, New York. © Lang Elliott.

4. Swamp Chorus (5:35)

Recorded not far from Phelps Lake State Park in eastern North Carolina, this chorus features the stuttering trills of Southeastern Field Cricket, along with the harsh rattles of the southeastern variety of the Common True Katydid. The regular chirps of Japanese Burrowing Cricket can also be heard. At the high end, listen for the calls of Lesser Anglewing and Common Meadow Katydid. 3am, 11 July 1994, near Cresswell, North Carolina. © Ted Mack.

5. Lakeshore Serenade (8:00)

Recorded on the shore of Lake Ontario on a calm night in early September, a lone Snowy Tree Cricket provides a steady beat against which waves gently wash against the rocky shoreline. Listen too for the continuous high-pitched trilling of ground crickets. I find this gentle soundscape to be hugely immersive and relaxing. 11pm, 1 September 2010. Robert Wehle State Park, near Henderson Harbor, New York. © Lang Elliott.

6. Osceola Symphony (7:40)

A beautiful southern chorus recorded in late July. The continuous trilling of tree crickets (mostly Davis') and ground crickets create a shimmering background over which one hears the rattles of Common True Katydid (southeastern variety). An Eastern Screech-owl periodically gives mournful, wavering whistles. A Japanese Burrowing cricket calls at times, and at the high end, listen for Lesser Anglewing. 10pm, 30 July 2002. Osceola National Forest, Florida. © Wil Hershberger.

7. Pungo Medley (7:37)

Another relaxing chorus from the Phelps Lake area in eastern North Carolina, featuring the musical trills of Southern Toads, Davis' Tree Crickets, and Southern Ground Crickets set against the continuous din made by other ground crickets. Listen also for the staccato calls of Carpenter Frogs. 2am, 9 July 1994, near Cresswell, North Carolina. © Ted Mack.

8. Owl Visitation (6:00)

This is my favorite lullaby, recorded on a cool September night in a meadow overgrown with shrubs. Snowy Tree Crickets chirp at a slow but steady rate. Slightly higher in pitch, one hears the continuous trilling of other tree crickets from the nearby forest. At the very high end, Sword-bearing Coneheads (a kind of katydid) give their sibilant *ts-ts-ts-ts-ts-ts-ts-ts* ... But the real surprise is the hooting of a two Barred Owls, their calls echoing across the meadow. Just amazing! 10 September 2010. Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area, near Ithaca, New York. © Lang Elliott.

9. Coyote Echos (7:25)

This magical autumn soundscape was recorded on an October night in western Kentucky. A Broad-winged Tree Cricket trills continuously and a Jumping Bush Cricket gives brief repeated trills. As usual, there is a continuous chorus of ground crickets. What makes this recording special are the mournful howls of a single Coyote, followed by the howling of a group. Later in the recording, a Barred Owl hoots repeatedly and then a pair hoots back-and-forth excitedly as they meet up in the forest. Simply exquisite! 3 October 2009. Land Between the Lakes, Kentucky. © Lang Elliott.

10. Thunder Crickets (10:10)

We will end with the arrival of a thunderstorm at the edge of a meadow in upstate New York. A light rain falls and thunder rumbles as the storm moves by. Two Snowy Tree Crickets call from nearby shrubs, their repeated trills given in almost perfect unison. How relaxing, but beware ... this soundscape may put you right to sleep. 11pm, 21 September, 2011. Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area near Ithaca, New York. © Lang Elliott.



Notes by Lang Elliott: Through the years, many folks have contacted me about obtaining a "CD" featuring relaxing insect choruses heard in late summer and early autumn. Well, the days of trying to sell off an inventory of a thousand CDs are quite passé (thank goodness), but I certainly have no problem with offering such as title as a digital download product ... and at long last, here it is! I waded through dozens of field recordings to choose these tracks. The problem is that many insect choruses are a bit on the raucous side and may not quite fit into the category of "relaxing." I believe that these ten tracks do indeed help calm the mind, although it's important to play them at a low to moderate volume, imitating the levels at which they are heard in nature. If you play them on the soft side, these soundscapes can be very appealing to the senses. Some hypnotize with a regular pulsating beat, while others mesmerize through gentle and continuous scintillation. And everyone loves it when the owls and coyotes join in, their howls and hoots providing a resonant, low-pitched counterpoint to the insect chorus!

Product Details:

Type: Pure Nature Soundscapes (stereo/binaural)

Format: MP3 (256kbps) digital download

Length: 75 minutes

Date Published: February 2013

Recordists: Lang Elliott, Ted Mack, and Wil Hershberger

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