

= Before and After Science =

Before and After Science is the fifth studio album by British musician Brian Eno . Produced by Eno and Rhett Davies , it was originally released by Polydor Records in December 1977 . Guest musicians from the United Kingdom and Germany helped with the album , including members of Roxy Music , Free , Fairport Convention , Can and Cluster . Over one hundred tracks were written with only ten making the album 's final cut . The musical styles of the album range from energetic and jagged to more languid and pastoral .

The album marks Eno 's last foray into rock music for the 1970s as a solo artist , with all his remaining albums of the decade showcasing more of Eno 's avant @-@ garde and ambient music , which was hinted at on the second half of Before and After Science . The album was Eno 's second to chart in the United States . The song " King 's Lead Hat " , the title of which is an anagram for Talking Heads , was remixed and released as a single , although it didn 't chart in the United Kingdom . Critical response to the album has remained positive , with several critics calling it one of Eno 's best works .

= = Production = =

Unlike Eno 's previous albums , which were recorded in a very short time , Before and After Science was two years in the making . During this two @-@ year period , Eno was busy working on his solo ambient music albums Music for Films and Discreet Music . Due to the very positive critical reception accorded his previous rock music @-@ oriented album Another Green World , Eno was afraid of repeating himself but still wanted to release a high @-@ quality product .

As on previous rock @-@ based recordings , for Before and After Science Eno worked with a plethora of guest musicians . Several artists from German and British groups of the era contributed to the album , collaborating with Eno for the first time . Guitarist Fred Frith caught the attention of Brian Eno who was " excited by the timbral possibilities that [Frith had] been discovering " on his album Guitar Solos . Eno asked Frith to record with him , and this resulted in Frith playing guitar on the album . Jaki Liebezeit of the German krautrock group Can played drums for Eno on " Backwater " , while German ambient music group Cluster contributed to the songwriting and instrumentation of the track " By This River " . Eno had previously worked with Cluster on their album Cluster & Eno released in 1977 . Additional session musicians included Dave Mattacks of British folk band Fairport Convention , who contributed drums to " Kurt 's Rejoinder " and " Here He Comes " , and Andy Fraser of British blues rock band Free , who played drums on " King 's Lead Hat " .

Eno also had several musicians who he had worked with on previous solo albums return . Percy Jones of Brand X and Phil Collins of Brand X and Genesis , who had been on Eno 's two previous rock albums , played bass and drums respectively . Other contributors included Robert Fripp of King Crimson , Paul Rudolph of Hawkwind and Bill MacCormick and Phil Manzanera of Quiet Sun . Robert Wyatt went under the pseudonym of Shirley Williams and is credited on the album for " time " and " brush timbales " on " Through Hollow Lands " and " Kurt 's Rejoinder " respectively . Working extensively with the musicians and his instructional cards ? the Oblique Strategies ? during the two years working on the album , Eno wrote over one hundred songs .

= = Style = =

Jim DeRogatis , author of Turn on Your Mind : Four Decades of Great Psychedelic Rock , described the overall sound of Before and After Science as " the coldest and most clinical of Eno 's pop efforts " , while David Ross Smith of online music database AllMusic wrote that " Despite the album 's pop format , the sound is unique and strays far from the mainstream " . According to David Bowie 's biographer Thomas Jerome Seabrook , the album is " split between up @-@ tempo art @-@ rock on side one and more pastoral material on side two " , while Piotr Orlov of LA Weekly categorized it as an art pop record . The album 's opening tracks " No One Receiving " and " Backwater " start the album as upbeat and bouncy songs . " King 's Lead Hat " is an anagram of

Talking Heads , a new wave group Eno had met after a concert in England when they were touring with Ramones . Eno would later produce Talking Heads ' second , third and fourth albums , including Remain in Light . The last five songs of the album have been described as having " an occasional pastoral quality " and being " pensive and atmospheric " .

Opposed to Another Green World 's music , which Eno described as " sky music " , Eno referred to the music of Before and After Science as " ocean music " . References to water in the lyrics appear in songs such as " Backwater " , " Julie With ... " and " By this River " . Author Simon Reynolds noted themes of " boredom " and " bliss " through the album , citing " Here He Comes " , about " a boy trying to vanish by floating through the sky through a different time " and " Spider and I " , about a boy watching the sky and dreaming about being carried away with a ship , as examples . Eno 's songwriting style was described as " a sound @-@ over @-@ sense approach " . Influenced by poet Kurt Schwitters , Eno consciously did not make songwriting or lyrics the main focus in the music . Tom Carson of Rolling Stone noted this style , stating that the lyrics are " only complementary variables " to the music on the album . Lester Bangs commented on Eno 's lyrical style on " Julie with ... " stating that the lyrics themes " could be a murderer 's ruminations , or simply a lovers ' retreat ... or Julie could be three years old " . Schwitters ' influence is also shown on the song " Kurt 's Rejoinder " , on which samples of Schwitters ' poem " Ursonate " can be heard .

= = Release = =

Before and After Science was released in December 1977 on Polydor in the United Kingdom and on Island in the United States . The first pressings of the album included four offset prints by Peter Schmidt . The back cover of the LP says " Fourteen Pictures " under the album title , referencing Eno 's ten songs and Peter Schmidt 's 4 prints . These prints included " The Road to the Crater " , " Look at September , look at October " , " The Other House " and " Four Years " . The album did not chart in the United Kingdom , but was Eno 's first album since Here Come the Warm Jets to chart in the United States , where it peaked at 171 on the Billboard Top LPs & Tapes chart . " King 's Lead Hat " was remixed and released as a single in January 1978 , featuring the b @-@ side " R.A.F. " , which is credited to " Eno & Snatch " . This single failed to chart in either the United Kingdom or the United States .

Before and After Science was re @-@ issued on compact disc through E.G. Records in January 1987 . In 2004 , Virgin Records began reissuing Eno 's albums in batches of four to five . The remastered digipak release of Before and After Science was released on 31 May 2004 in the United Kingdom and on 1 June 2004 in North America .

On a side note , the black @-@ and @-@ white album cover art was used by the Singapore government for an anti @-@ heroin campaign in the late 1970s . The image was used briefly on posters and then quickly changed , probably due to legal reasons .

= = Reception = =

On the album 's initial release , the album received very positive reviews from rock critics . Writing for Creem , Joe Fernbacher called the Before and After Science " the perfect Eno album " , while Mitchell Schneider wrote a positive review in Crawdaddy ! , stating that he couldn 't " remember the last time a record took such a hold of [him] ? and gave [him] such an extreme case of vertigo , too " . In Down Beat , Russel Shaw wrote that " [Before and After Science] is another typically awesome , stunning and numbing Brian Eno album ? the record Pink Floyd could make if they set their collective mind to it . " Tom Carson of Rolling Stone noted that the album " is less immediately ingratiating than either Taking Tiger Mountain or Here Come the Warm Jets . Still , the execution here is close to flawless , and despite Eno 's eclecticism , the disparate styles he employs connect brilliantly . " Critic Robert Christgau gave the album an A ? rating , stating that he " didn 't like the murkiness of the quiet , largely instrumental reflections that take over side two " , but didn 't find that it " diminishes side one 's oblique , charming tour of the popular rhythms of the day " . In 1979 , Before and After Science was voted 12th best album of the year on the Village Voice 's Pazz & Jop

critics poll for 1978 .

Modern reviews of Before and After Science have also been positive . David Ross Smith of AllMusic awarded the album the highest rating of five stars stating that it ranks alongside Here Come the Warm Jets and Another Green World " as the most essential Eno material " . The music webzine Tiny Mix Tapes awarded the album their highest rating , stating that it " is not only one of the best albums in Eno 's catalog , but of the 1970s as a whole " . The webzine Pitchfork Media gave Before and After Science a positive but less enthusiastic review , calling the album a " neutered star in search of fuel , boasting only ' King 's Lead Hat ' for the pop world , and the luminous pure prog @-@ jazz of ' Energy Fools the Magician ' for the out @-@ rock contingent " . Ten days later Pitchfork placed Before and After Science at number 100 on their list of " Top 100 Albums of the 1970s " , referring to it as a " lovely , charming album " and going on to state that , while " not formally groundbreaking , it 's frequently overlooked when discussing great albums from an era that 's romanticized as placing premiums on progression and innovation ? and particularly in the context of Eno 's career , which is so full of both " .

The album was included in Robert Dimery 's 1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Brian Eno , except where noted .

= = Personnel = =

Musicians
Production

= = Chart performance = =