

## NKARC Letter: December 2012

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Bill Bhaneja](#)

**Sent:** Monday, December 03, 2012 11:23 AM

**Subject:** Nonkilling Arts Research Committee: THE FLOOD

Dear friends,

I share with you an innovatively designed project by NKARC colleague Anis Hamadeh about his music and poetry, entitled ,THE FLOOD.

The url below not only introduces a reader to lyrics of his 30 songs but also helps us to understand creative process of the artist and the big concept behind it. It is a delight to read in such meticulous detail Anis' thoughts as he moves from one phase to the next, getting close to demo CD and recording plans for his work. Song 29 is perfect from where I sit, including his succinct statement on Nonkilling: "It is a concept to find out about whether or not societies have to kill, and why." It reminded me of another NK reiteration, where political science colleague Piki Ish-Shalom recently described - "Nonkilling a Lighthouse Narrative".

For more on Anis' unique project, click following 2 url :

The FLOOD general link is [www.anis-online.de/2/musik/the\\_flood](http://www.anis-online.de/2/musik/the_flood)

and

[www.anis-online.de/2/musik/the\\_flood/faq.htm](http://www.anis-online.de/2/musik/the_flood/faq.htm)

Thank you, Anis.

Nonkilling regards,

Bill

Bill (Balwant) Bhaneja

Coordinator/Facilitator

Nonkilling Arts Research Committee

Center for Global Nonkilling

[www.nonkilling.org](http://www.nonkilling.org)

"Nonkilling is THE measure of human progress."

----- Original Message -----

## THE FLOOD Questions and Answers

[www.anis-online.de/2/musik/the\\_flood/faq.htm](http://www.anis-online.de/2/musik/the_flood/faq.htm)

### How did THE FLOOD come into being?

I wrote THE FLOOD from June to October 2012, see [work index](#) no. 925-956. As usual, I wrote it piece for piece in exactly the order that you can see now and I did not plan it. In this way, the author never knows more than the audience which is dramatically advantageous. About a month before composing it I had [fasted](#) for a long time, this probably brought the initial inspiration. You can still see it in the title of the first song. Apart from that I have no idea how THE FLOOD came into being. It so happened.

### Did you integrate any older material?

No. All thirty songs are new and original.

**The story of this rock opera seems to be sketched rather than fully told. Is this your**

### **understanding of a concept album?**

Half of the story is with the listener. I do not want to give you a finished story, this can easily be boring or patronizing. When you let the album go through your system you will have associations of your own to accomplish the work. When the CD is out I will invite everybody to send in additions. Some may have poems, images and songs to extend the scope. I will collect them here on this page when the time has come.

### **Why will you put all the studio mp3s online for free? Are you mad?**

I am 46 and have several other projects I still want to realize. For 14 years I have been breathing under water, I need to get known to obtain more possibilities. It is no problem to write a second part.

### **What about the band?**

The rhythm section consists of experienced musicians: Marius has a [drum school](#) here in Mainz, [Andreas](#) plays in different bands. Miriam brings in her youth and beautiful voice. She also writes songs, on the keyboard. [Lorenzo](#) is about to finish his music studies with flute as his major instrument. [Sabine](#) basically also belongs to the group, she runs the facebook page, takes part in creating the poster, will design the flyer with me, sponsors the studio recordings and a lot more.

### **Do you have a label, a manager or a producer?**

No.

### **It is unusual to use a flute in a rock band. Why did you choose it?**

"THE FLOOD" even sounds like "The Flute". I love the sound and it can take so many shapes: Sometimes the flute is like a voice, sometimes a clarinet or a blues harp. I played with Lorenzo [before](#) and ever since wanted to write something for his flute.

### **You say THE FLOOD is unplugged. What does that mean exactly?**

We use an acoustic guitar and percussions instead of a drum kit. The bass is slightly amplified, this gives it a full sound. The overall atmosphere is acoustic rather than electric.

### **Why do you write in English? You are German.**

Most of the musicians I grew up with (in my education) sang in English. It is very normal for me to write and sing in English, I do not even think about it. Right after I was finished I played the whole piece to my friend [Charles](#) from Liverpool and to his sister Felicity. I was a bit nervous, because the lyrics were not proofread by anybody. But they only found two minor mistakes in all the songs: "Where are the rest of us" in no. 2, where I wrongly had: "Where *is* the rest of us", and "what we aspire to" in no. 11, where I had missed out the preposition. And that was it. - But I do also write in German and I will at one point sing something in French, too. And Arabic. Italian ...

### **In the legend, [John Henry](#), this strong black man and his hammer competed with a machine in laying railroad tracks. How come he entered THE FLOOD?**

John Henry is deeply embedded in the US collective memory. Johnny Cash sang his song, Springsteen, Belafonte and many more. I wanted to see how this American hero acts when he is confronted with a conflict situation as in THE FLOOD. So I made him a second survivor of the shipwreck. He is the one who can tell our hero that his name is Joe. And he triggers that Joe's memory comes back.

### **That almost sounds as if THE FLOOD was an American work. In your articles and essays you are rather critical of the USA. Isn't that a contradiction?**

Absolutely. On the other hand, there are many US citizens critical of their country, too. I write what I have inside me, without planning. Not without control, but without a plan. I find it absurd when Germans deliberately avoid certain styles in order to design an identity. I believe identity is what you are, not what you design.

### **The last but one song talks about a new word, "Nonkilling". What is nonkilling?**

It is a concept to find out about whether or not societies have to kill, and why. On [nonkilling.org](#) you can get all the details. I find this questions intriguing and important.

**Is there a list where I can see which song is blues, which one is reggae etc.?**

Yes, in the [song index](#). There you can also see the approximate lengths of the songs.

**What can I do to support THE FLOOD?**

If you want to support the CD production you can pre-order your copy for 15 euros or you can order several copies and give it to your friends. The CD has 80 minutes and a big poster from the island inside. Soon the facebook page is out, there you can show your support, too. Also, you can forward the FLOOD link and link the logo to your page.

**Will you play THE FLOOD with the band on stage and how can people book you?**

Yes, we will be ready to play as soon as the studio CD is out, in February. You can contact me (Anis) for bookings and more info.

[Back to THE FLOOD index page with audio samples and project info.](#) *CD release in February 2013.*

Dec. 1, 2012