

Erie Reader

<http://eriereader.com/topics/entertainment/music/albums-reviewed-alex-bieler-and-ben-speggen-18>  
Ben Speggen 4 stars

### The Sound of Thunder

Being familiar with T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land" will certainly augment your experience of "What the Thunder Said." But enjoying the album doesn't depend on it. Without launching into a dissertation of what many critics herald as one of the most complex and rich poems written in English (mostly), the poem features five sections, the last being "What the Thunder Said." onewayness and dRachEmUsik use this section as the backdrop for their album with four movements. Eliot draws from the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad, and the duo continues that parallel, titling the movements after the four featured concepts: Datta, Dayadhvam, Damyata, and Shantih.

With whispering synths brooding, "In Charity" gives way to "In Mercy," featuring scattering drums and swelling feedback. Hushes guide "In Desire," while a soft piano carries the melody. "In Peace" reiterates the Mantras, and resolves the composition's tension. Lulling at times but literarily delightful, "Thunder" melds electronica distress and bliss beautifully.