



THE KEY THING, ESPECIALLY WITH MUSIC AND STRING PLAYING, IS THAT REAL FEELING COMES FROM INTEGRATION AND ACCURACY. AS WITH LEARNING TO COPE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE, IT IS A WAR ON ERROR.

**C V Aubrey Meyer**

Aubrey Meyer was born in Bingley YORKS UK, in 1947.

From 1952, he was raised in Cape Town South Africa where at Wynberg Boys' School he was a pupil of the violin and the piano. In his matriculation year he was the leader of the school orchestra, captain of the school sailing team, a member of the rowing team and an accomplished water-skier.

In 1964, he began study at the Music College at Cape Town University for a Bachelor of Music Degree which was awarded in 1968. During this time he became a UCT Sailing 'Blue' for a place result in the South Africa National Sailing Regatta.

Early attempts at composition during this period included a *'Movement for String Sextet'* and a *'Prelude for Orchestra'*. These won him the South African Music Rights Organization (SAMRO) Scholarship for composition with an entitlement to two years further study abroad.

In 1970 in London, at the Royal College of Music, he continued composition study with Phillip Cannon and viola studies with the late Cecil Arronowitz. *'Lila'* his piece for Chamber Orchestra won the International Music Company Prize and his *'Song Cycle'* based on poems from *'Gitanjali'* by Tagore won the Stanton Jeffries Music Prize.

To earn a living after leaving college in 1971, he played the viola in various orchestras, by turns as principal viola in the Scottish Theatre Ballet, the Ulster, the Gulbenkian and CAPAB Orchestras.

Composing when time permitted, he conducted the premiere of his Tone Poem *'Kwannon'* in the Nico Malan Opera House in Cape Town in 1978.

A One-Act Ballet *'Exequy'* - a first attempt in this genre - followed and this was finally premiered in Cape Town in 1981. This ballet was well received by the press and was awarded the Nederburg Prize in that year: - reviews at the end of this document. Meyer was awarded a Master of Music degree in composition from University of Cape Town for this work.

In 1980 he returned to London where he continued writing while playing in the Sadlers Wells Royal Ballet and the London Philharmonic Orchestra during the 1980s.

In 1983 *'Choros'* a one-act ballet written in collaboration with David Bintley for the Sadlers Wells Royal Ballet was premiered in London.

It received the *'Evening Standard Award'* and was performed to considerable critical acclaim: - reviews at the end on this document.

In 1988 he was looking for the subject for a musical and came across the story of Chico Mendez and his assassination in the Brazilian Rainforest.

The issues raised - particularly already looming global climate change - diverted him from music to the UK Green Party. Here he co-founded the Global Commons Institute (GCI) in 1990 and a programme to counter the threat based on the founding premise of *'Equity and Survival'*.

From then until the present day, he has devised and run a campaign with the aim of achieving the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which is to avoid dangerous rates of global climate change. This has become increasingly influential and likened to *'Ending Global Apartheid'*.

At the request of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1992, he conceived and presented an analysis of *'The Unequal Use of The Global Commons'* to the Policy Working Group of the IPCC which was dubbed *'Expansion and Divergence'*.

In 1995, this analysis became a cause celebre at the UN negotiations. It resulted in a decisive international rejection of the Global Cost Benefit Analysis of Climate Change as conducted by neo-classical economists from the US and the UK, whose methods depended on the unequal valuation of the loss of human life due to climate change.

This was followed by GCI's framework of *'Contraction and Convergence'* (C&C). C&C is a greenhouse gas emissions reconciliation concept which, since its introduction in 1996 has become a central feature of the debate about our common future under conditions of global climate change.

The acknowledgements and advocacy and adoption of the C&C concept, have led to many accolades for Aubrey and this campaign.

A list of these follows along with a list of C&C publications and references.

This year [2008] he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change, with whom he has worked closely over the past five years as a strategic advisor.



## AWARDS

### Andrew Lees Memorial Award - 1998

*"Aubrey Meyer, almost single-handedly and with minimal resources, has made an extraordinary impact on the negotiations on the Climate Change Treaty, one of the most important of our time, through his campaign for a goal of equal per capita emissions, which is now official negotiating position of many governments, and is gaining acceptance in developed and developing countries alike."*

### The Schumacher Award - 2000

*"Aubrey Meyer set up his Global Commons Institute (GCI) in 1990, with minimal resources, to campaign to bring the threat of global warming to the attention of the public and to policy makers. For over ten years, with great determination and meticulous attention to scientific detail, he has presented his case counteracting the arguments put forward by corporate interests. Of special significance is his formulation of 'contraction and convergence', a strategy for fairly sharing the rights to emit carbon dioxide worldwide. This is increasingly recognised as the most logical and effective way of preventing climatic catastrophe while promoting justice and equity. It has made an extraordinary impact on the Climate Change Treaty negotiations."*

### A Findhorn Fellowship 2004

*"Aubrey Meyer is a professional violinist who has largely bracketed his music career to address the global challenge of climate change. Having attended the first UN meetings on the subject in the early 90's, he has since fully engaged with the issue and developed the 'Contraction and Convergence' model as an antidote to it. He created and directs the Global Commons Institute in London as a vehicle to advance his formula to virtually all who will listen. He presented it here at the Restore the Earth conference in 2002. Its genius lies in its capacity prospectively to reduce greenhouse emissions by the 60-80% that the UN IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) say is required to minimise the likely devastating effects of global warming. His views are increasingly endorsed by prominent members of the British establishment. I hope you join me in welcoming Aubrey to the Fellowship and in supporting his remarkable, indeed heroic, initiative. Aubrey Meyer is arguably the world's foremost carbon strategist and to global warming what Michael Moore is to the US electoral saga - a delightful maverick who just might 'save the day'."*

### City of London Life-Time's Achievement Award - 2005

*"From the worlds of business, academia, politics and activism, Aubrey Meyer has made the greatest contribution to the understanding and combating of climate change having led strategic debate or policy formation. In recognition of an outstanding personal contribution to combating climate change at an international level through his efforts to enhance the understanding and adoption of the principle of Contraction and Convergence."*

### Honorary Fellow of Royal Institute of British Architects - 2007

For his challenging and inspirational promotion of environmental issues, in particular his development of the concept of Contraction and Convergence. Architects adopted C&C at RIBA Council in 2006 and asked Aubrey to present C&C at their annual conference in October. There, RIBA's Chairman declared climate change as the dominant agenda for the 21st Century, called for C&C targets and committed RIBA to campaigning for C&C." He was an inspirational speaker at the RIBA's 2006 Annual Conference in Venice and reported the event as follows; *"Meyer, formerly a professional musician, started with a virtuoso performance that was simultaneously moving, terrifying and informative. He played the violin theme to Schindler's List to images of the environmental holocaust he went on to argue that we face."*

### The UNEP FI Global Roundtable Financial Leadership Award - 2007

UNEP FI for the first time recognized executives within the financial services who have contributed in a significant manner to the development of financial ideas, innovative products, institutional change and or the carbon markets themselves through the UNEP FI Carbon Leadership Award. Four executive awards were given for each category of financial services: Banking, Insurance/ Reinsurance, Asset Management/Private Banking and Pension Funds. In addition, an award was given for a representative from civil society who had worked towards the same end. Award winners were selected from a large number of entries by a small group of UNEP FI's long term climate change advisors. The civil society category award for the most impressive commitment and innovative thinking around climate change and the financial sector with the UNEP FI Carbon Leadership Award went to Aubrey Meyer of the Global Commons Institute.

## COMMENTS

### 2002 Michael Meacher, the UK Environment Minister

*"if ever there was an initiative that deserved recognition and support, it is the brilliant and relentless campaign waged by this fiercely independent, creative and apparently tireless individual."*

### 2003 The UN Climate Convention Secretariat

*"Achieving the goal of the climate treaty, inevitably requires contraction and convergence".*

### 2003 The Archbishop of Canterbury

*"C&C appears utopian only if we refuse to contemplate the alternatives honestly."*

### 2003 Sir John Houghton Royal Commission Environmental Pollution

*"Since the formulation of 'Contraction and Convergence', Aubrey Meyer has tirelessly and selflessly argued for and promoted it with great energy and tenacity in scientific, economic and political fora. Admiration is frequently expressed regarding its elegance and simple logic and it has been widely accepted by policy makers and by NGOs as a basis that should underlie the next stage of policy formulation. There is no other proposal in play that meets so many of the required principles and criteria or that has any real chance of succeeding. It is bound to be strongly influential in the crucial round of international negotiations in the FCCC that is about to begin. The personal dedication of Aubrey Meyer, born of a deep concern for global humanity and its future, is what has brought the Contraction and Convergence proposal to the influential position it holds today."*

### In 2003 the Independent on Sunday a UK broadsheet

*[Meyer is] "one of the three most important people in the world."*

### In 2005 a UK Journal the New Statesman

*[Meyer is] "one of the ten people in the world most likely to change it."*

### 2007 UNITAR Seminar

*[Meyer is] "arguably the world's leading carbon strategist" and "the Mandela of Climate Change" for demonstrating the end of global apartheid.*

### 2007 the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change

commissioned a DVD from Meyer to demonstrate the C&C argument and support for it. Called *'The Incontestable Truth'* this has been circulated very widely in and beyond the UK. Commendations for Meyer and his work establishing C&C were included in this production.

### 2007 Sir Crispin Tickell, former UN Ambassador

and now the Director of the Policy Foresight Programme James Martin Institute Oxford University:  
*"Aubrey Meyer has done an amazing job and shown extraordinary persistence and ingenuity in working out a scheme of this kind, and I very much admire him for it. Above all he's laid out a kind of intellectual and legal framework which is what you need if you're going to set global arrangements in place."*

### 2007 Dr. Julian Salt Director of Climate Solutions

*"Aubrey Meyer is the most courageous and brilliant climate researcher I have ever met. He is willing to say what other's merely think. He is quite fearless of any audience and the most eloquent of speaker's because he knows that ultimately the concept of Contraction and Convergence [C&C] is indestructible and will in the fullness of time be adopted in some form by the UNFCCC.*

*He has developed his arguments over twenty years with a minimum of funding and has refused to compromise his position in any way for financial gain or glory. He is tireless in his research and quest to understand every nuance of the climate debate. It has been an honour for me to have known and worked with such a brilliant mind and such an honest person as Aubrey. He has much support from very well placed and respectable people and deserves global recognition for his work. He is quite simply a modern-day genius who will one day be respected for his vision and beliefs.*

*He should be considered for the Nobel Peace prize as his efforts ultimately will save the planet from the ravages of man-induced climate change."*