

## Laurie Anderson

# "The Beginning of Memory"

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There's a story in an ancient play about birds called  
The Birds

And it's a short story from before the world began  
From a time when there was no earth, no land.  
Only air and birds everywhere.

But the thing was there was no place to land.  
Because there was no land.  
So they just circled around and around.  
Because this was before the world began.

And the sound was deafening. Songbirds were  
everywhere.  
Billions and billions and billions of birds.

And one of these birds was a lark and one day her  
father died.  
And this was a really big problem because what should  
they do with the body?  
There was no place to put the body because there was  
no earth.

And finally the lark had a solution.  
She decided to bury her father in the back of her own  
head.  
And this was the beginning of memory.  
Because before this no one could remember a thing.  
They were just constantly flying in circles.  
Constantly flying in huge circles.

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