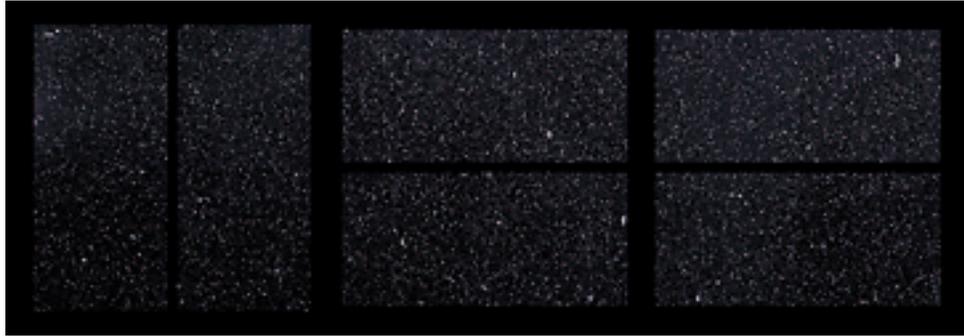


JEFF TALMAN STUDIO – NEW YORK
a pioneer of the use of resonance in artworks... Intute, Oxford University

Berghof Gibacht, Waldmünchen, Germany presents



NATURE OF THE NIGHT SKY (2011)
Bavarian Forest Sound Installation, May 7 – Sept 18

International artist Jeff Talman returns to Germany this spring for his fourth Bavarian Forest sound installation, a starlit program beginning just after sundown every evening. A Berghof Gibacht commission, *Nature of the Night Sky* will feature the spherical harmonic resonance of the stars as its sole sound source.

Stars create thousands of roaring resonant sounds that cannot penetrate the vacuum of space. But stellar seismology, the study of the oscillations of star masses, makes possible the scientific reproduction of their sound. Cosmologist collaborator Daniel Huber of the Sydney Institute for Astronomy (Australia) realized a set of uniformly scaled star sounds specifically for this project. *Nature of the Night Sky* originates in these resonances, whose cosmic reality infuses the installation with metaphor and the vast timelessness of space.

Talman analyzed these resonances noting that they do not exhibit the harmonic structures typically found in music. Stars issue dense and tightly woven packs of sound, somewhat comparable to the sounds of clangorous bells. The artist used these dense sonic bodies directly in the installation sound, but also unpacked them to examine the alien sound anatomy of stars, then reassembled them to structure the sound of the installation. Importantly, all sounds in *Nature of the Night Sky* are modeled sounds of actual stars. No other sounds were used in the installation.

Near Waldmünchen, Germany, *Nature of the Night Sky* sounds for about fifty minutes just after sunset every evening. In the dark, hushed mountain woodlands, the installation presents a surrounding sonic environment with loudspeakers poised in trees around the perimeter of a small forest clearing. Beneath the canopy of the stars *Nature of the Night Sky* explores the astonishingly rich harmonic coloration of truly celestial voices.

Installation Details

Exhibition Opening: 7 PM, May 7 at the Berghof Gibacht

Exhibition dates: May 7 – September 18.

Sound program begins nightly in the forest just after sunset (weather permitting).

Sound program duration is approximately 50 minutes.

Flashlights are recommended for the access road and forest trail.

The walk from the Berghof car park to the installation plus return total about 1.5 km.

Installation star charts are by Daniel Huber. The charts identify stars from which the installation sound data was gathered.

Acknowledgments

Preliminary test star sounds and/or star sound information were provided by cosmologists Tim Bedding, Travis Metcalfe, Zoltán Kolláth, Sean O'Brien, Todd Watson, asteroseismology.com, the High Altitude Observatory, Boulder Colorado; the Whole Earth Telescope, Iowa State University Department of Physics and Astronomy, the Konkoly Observatory, Budapest and the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Star sound data was gathered by NASA's Kepler space telescope, the Canadian MOST space telescope and the French CoRoT satellite.

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