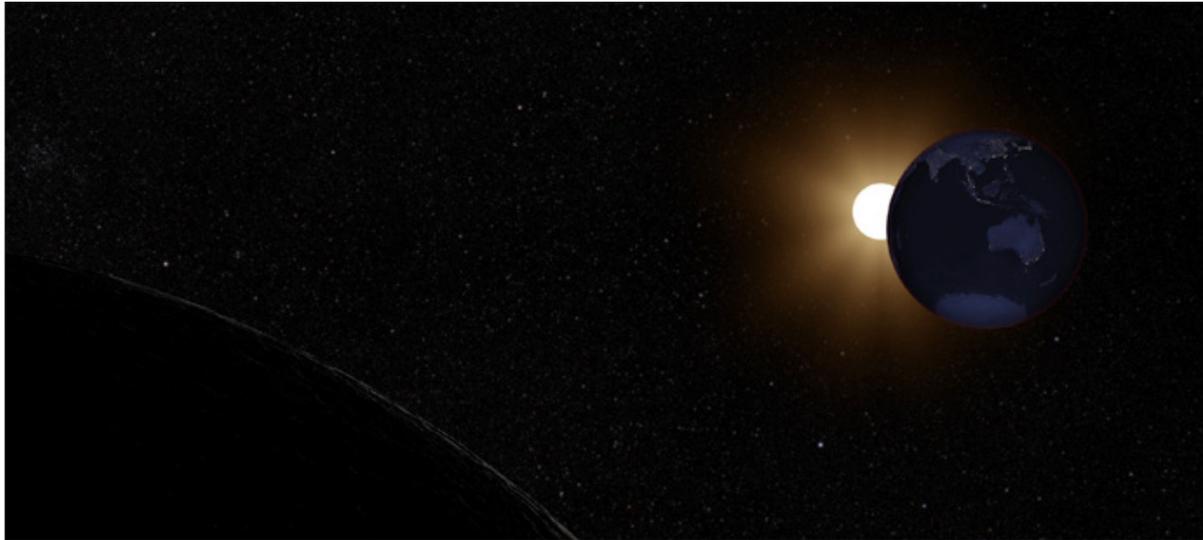


JEFF TALMAN STUDIO – NEW YORK

exquisitely muted... luminously still – The New York Times

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rothko Chapel, Houston presents



NASA/GSFC Scientific Visualization Studio, Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter

MOMENTS FROM THE SUN
– a resonance of radiance –

Vernal equinox, March 20, 2014, 7 PM presentation

International artist Jeff Talman brings the sound of the Sun to Houston's Rothko Chapel in this new sound installation in collaboration with NASA astrophysicist Dr. Daniel Huber. Expressive singing solar 'voices' offer a unique perspective in this adventurous survey of the Sun and its singular place in terrestrial and human history: source of energy and life, deity, destroyer, heart of the harmony of the spheres, celestial time-keeper, *lux aeterna*, scientific wonder and symbol of cosmic awareness.

The Sun perpetually roars with thousands of harmonically resonant sounds, which exhibit the solar 'tuning' that's dependent on the size of the Sun, its chemical composition and temperature. Similar to the ringing of a bell, but much lower in sound, solar sounds are extraordinarily long acoustic waveforms perhaps five miles in length. Sun sounds cannot cross the vacuum of space, but study of solar acoustic pressure wave oscillations in the Sun makes possible the scientific reproduction of the sound.

Far below the range of human hearing Dr. Huber scaled these sounds to human dimension to serve as the only sound source for the installation. The scaling factor of the sounds was determined by analysis of Rothko Chapel acoustics: principle low frequency bandwidth of the resonant Sun sounds is matched to

the principle low frequency of the Chapel acoustics. Additional solar resonances matching the Chapel acoustic resonances are included, such that the harmonic resonance of the Sun activates that of the site. The Chapel becomes sonically illuminated, as its own resonant harmonies are brought forward by the radiant sounds of the Sun. Presented in this meditative space the installation brings a nuance of the cosmic radiant light of the Sun that much closer to the luminous emanations of Rothko's masterworks.

The title of the installation refers to both the duration of data recorded in surveying the solar resonances as well as to the Earth's distance from the Sun, which at approximately 8 light-minutes is but a few mere moments in the expanse of the 13.8 billion year-old Universe.

Schedule: March 20, 2014, the vernal equinox. Free event, seating is first come, first served.

Presentations (duration is about 45 minutes):

- 7:26 AM (sunrise)
- Noon
- 5 PM
- 7 PM, program featuring the artist and astrophysicist with a final presentation of the sound
- Reception to follow

Jeff Talman – A recognized "pioneer of the use of resonance in artworks" (Intute, Oxford University), Jeff has created numerous sound installations including works for Cathedral Square-Cologne, Galleria Mazzini-Genoa, the MIT Media Lab, The Kitchen, Eyebeam and four installations in the Bavarian Forest, Germany. His major achievement is the 15-year exploration of reflexive resonance, in which ambient resonance becomes an installation's only sound source. Trained as a composer, he also studied visual arts as an undergraduate. Talman attended and then directed orchestras at Columbia University and the City College of New York. Awards include those from the Guggenheim Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts and artists residencies internationally. <http://jefftalman.com/>

Dr. Daniel Huber – A NASA astrophysicist, Daniel's main area of research is the understanding of the structure and evolution of stars, as well as the characterization of planets found around other stars. Daniel is an active member in a number of major research collaborations, including the space telescope Kepler. His work has been published in internationally renowned magazines including *Nature*, *Science* and *The Astrophysical Journal*. Daniel was born and raised in Vienna, Austria. He received his Master's Degree in Astronomy at the University of Vienna in 2007 before moving to the University of Sydney to obtain his PhD in Astrophysics in 2011. <http://kepler.nasa.gov/>

Rothko Chapel – The Rothko Chapel, founded by Houston philanthropists John and Dominique de Menil, was dedicated in 1971 as an intimate sanctuary available to people of every belief. A tranquil meditative environment inspired by the mural canvases of Russian-born American painter Mark Rothko (1903-1970), the Chapel welcomes over 60,000 visitors each year, people of every faith and from all parts of the world. In 2011 the Chapel celebrated its fortieth anniversary, having achieved, in those years, recognition as one of the greatest artistic achievements of the second half of the twentieth century. In 2001 the Chapel was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, an honor awarded before the institution was fifty years old. <http://rothkochapel.org/>