

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)  
New Worlds - Non-Traditional Space Education and Outreach (7)

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FOLK SPACE – USING MUSIC TO ADVOCATE FOR SPACE TO THE VOTING PUBLIC

**Abstract**

U.S. space exploration is, in part, dependent on public support, particularly among the voting age population. However, reaching this group and increasing enthusiasm is difficult within current outreach budgets and restrictions and therefore could benefit greatly from grassroots efforts by individual lay enthusiasts. This paper examines the experiences of the author in writing and performing music about space as an independent artist without outside funding and the reactions from various types of audiences. Combining songs inspired by non-fictional space issues and stories with information about current and historic space events is a way to bring the conversation into non-traditional venues such as bars and coffee houses. This paper draws upon observations about live audience reactions as a whole, individual audience member responses, and comments from listeners of the recorded and distributed versions of these songs. It also investigates their use in others' outreach efforts to explore the potential for using music to increase awareness and support for further exploration and missions.