

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Show Us Space: Demonstration of Hands On Education and Outreach (8)

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THE SPACE PIANIST: WHEN SCIENCE MEETS ART

Abstract

The proposed presentation and performance will showcase "Music from Space", a project leading the Space Art cultural movement. It merges music and science through the piano performance of original compositions created to be onboard the International Space Station (ISS). These compositions, streamed live to Earth in 2022 and 2023, represent a novel form of hybrid art, blurring the lines between scientific exploration and artistic expression. The performance at the IAC will feature Dr Leonardo Barilaro, known as the "Space Pianist", playing these unique compositions on a piano. "Music from Space" transcends cultural barriers, reaching a broader audience than formal education. Dr Barilaro, an artist and aerospace engineer, exemplifies this interdisciplinary approach. He is a professional pianist with a global presence at prestigious events, holds a PhD in space safety and is also a senior lecturer in aerospace engineering. The presentation highlights past projects like the "Maletth" program and the ongoing ASTROBEAT project, which explores the intersection of space debris research and new forms of space music. ASTROBEAT will be onboard the ISS at the end of 2024. The audience will experience the music firsthand, being guided in the presentation in creating a connection with the endeavours of astronauts onboard the ISS. To deliver the optimal experience, an acoustic grand piano is ideal. However, a stage piano with 88 weighted keys, a high-quality audio system, one audio monitor for the musician and a video projector will ensure a proper experience for the public. Access to the venue before the session for a soundcheck is required. Beyond the performance, the presentation will explore the future of space music activities, like the collaboration with NYUAD. By showcasing the milestones of the project and encouraging innovative approaches to outreach, the presentation wants to inspire the international space community to embrace artistic endeavours, crucial for garnering increased public support and enthusiasm for space exploration's potential in addressing global challenges.