

EARTH MUSIC THEATER LIVE

with STEVE THOMAS' GUITARSCAPES AND FOLKTALES AND FUSIONS

WELCOME TO EARTH ORBIT

Float over to the Cupola window and watch our glorious Earth as we play live music.

Astronauts on the International Space Station took these movies of Earth. You see the full panoply, as if you were on the ISS, looking out the window. Glorious Earth.

Then we add music. Steve Thomas and his creative team playing original music, matched to these Earth views – all live. Music floats with us in space as we experience this global view. A wonderful journey for your eyes and ears.

Please take care of our home, planet Earth.



Astronaut Jessica Watkins in the ISS Cupola (NASA photo)

EAR-BENDING SONICS

I am fortunate to present this ensemble of gifted musicians to augment the arrangements conceived in my head, “landing” in aural form for all to experience. Being in the presence of their deft musicianship truly inspires me.

Tonight's event includes genre-straddling original music that's homespun Americana, style melting “mashup” and expressive prairie fusions. Ambient, baroque, country and indie spirit, meld with jazz sensibilities, to take you on an ear-bending adventure. The range of musical ground covered is as wide as the vistas projected on the walls.

The prominent guitar sounds throughout the program are created in the moment, interacting with guitar effects processors. AI (Algorithmic Intelligence) built into one of the processors listens to input, calculates, rearranges and reinterprets, creating real-time harmony and spontaneous movement in the form of melodic arpeggios and hypnotic drones. Of course, like any “animal” it can be temperamental, not acting as you might expect. This adds to the excitement and the challenge of managing the “instrument” and the aperiodic chaos in a cacophony of ear-bending sonics.

Steve Thomas

THE EARTH MOVIES

To make these movies, astronauts fix-mount a high-resolution digital camera in the Cupola window of the ISS. They select flight paths and the camera takes time series, one photo per second. Then we work magic with video-editing tools to convert the time series into movies. They're exceptional quality - incredible colors, fine-turned production, with thousands of movie clips in the archive.

I have worked with over 30 musicians to make Earth Music Theater. Each is a wonderful creative partner, with different ideas about Earth and music – classical, jazz, indigenous, even whale songs. Music as rich and diverse as Earth. And today we premiere Earth Music Theater Live!

Tune into your hearts. Listen, watch and feel the harmonies of music and Earth. Gain new insights. And then reflect on the challenges we all face on Earth, and perhaps find new ideas, hope and joy for this beautiful planet. Welcome to Earth – our fragile oasis in space.

Dan Barstow

THE PROGRAM

OPEN

(Stephen N. Thomas, Statwood Publishing, ASCAP)
from the original Windows on Earth soundtrack

MGST

(Stephen N. Thomas, Statwood Publishing, ASCAP)
Guitarscapes composition created for the Earth Movie Spain to Ukraine

SHENANDOAH

(Traditional)
A beautiful traditional song for interpretation

EARTH LIGHT

(Dr. Sian Proctor)
Astronaut Dr. Sian Proctor speaks eloquently about Earth from above

LIFE'S DANCE

(Stephen N. Thomas, Statwood Publishing, ASCAP)
Written for Steve's grandmother in the twilight of her years

NOHO RAG

(Stephen N. Thomas, Statwood Publishing, ASCAP)
First composition written after moving to the happy valley of Western MA

SPACE RAGA 1

(Stephen N. Thomas, Statwood Publishing, ASCAP)
As it happens in the moment using sound design created for Windows on Earth

WHERE NOW

(Stephen N. Thomas, Statwood Publishing, ASCAP)
Written at an inflection point asking, “where now?”

THE WAY HOME

(Stephen N. Thomas, Statwood Publishing, ASCAP)
Music evolving from the Sunset Serenity Earth Movie, now a journey

HAZE COUNTRY

(Stephen N. Thomas, Statwood Publishing, ASCAP)
Inspired by haze lofting from meadows of the Connecticut River Valley into the hills

SPACE RAGA 2

(Stephen N. Thomas, Statwood Publishing, ASCAP)
As it happens in the moment using sound design created for Windows on Earth

WE SHALL OVERCOME

(Traditional)
A traditional song and a vital statement

Special Guest

Astronaut Cady Coleman

Musicians

Steve Thomas guitar/sound design
Chris Cheek alto sax
Carl Clements alto & bansuri flutes
Claire Arenius drums
Josh Metz double bass

Poetry Reading

Astronaut Dr. Sian Proctor

Film

Earth Movie edited and produced by Dan Barstow
Earth Movie utilizes photography taken by the following crews of the International Space Station: 40, 42, 43, 53, 55, 67, 68, 70, 71

STEVE THOMAS – Composer/Musical Director

Steve Thomas is a music/tech marketing veteran and multifaceted musician (guitarist, composer, audio engineer/producer). He crafts audio and music for artists, institutions, and creatives working in TV, film, and all forms of media. He particularly enjoys engaging in art and education projects that are out to do good in the world. For years he has worked with renowned composer/producer Ruth Mendelson on projects for the Jane Goodall Institute including the National Geographic docufilm The Hope, Dr. Goodall's Hopecast and the immersive, unabridged, audio book My Life with Chimpanzees narrated by Dr. Goodall; the 2023 Mendelson score mix for Our Promise: 100 years of the American Battle Monuments Commission, and indie film projects with the Valley's own Happy Wasteland Studios. In 2007 Steve was commissioned to create the soundtrack for the Windows on Earth project. In 2024 the Windows on Earth soundtrack was remastered for the premiere of Earth Serenade, a series produced in collaboration with UCTV and the Association of Space Explorers. Steve has made several Earth music movies featured on EarthMusicTheater.org.

DAN BARSTOW – Earth Movie Maker

Dan Barstow is the Director of Earth Music Theater. He manages a comprehensive library of all movies taken by the ISS astronauts, on behalf of the Association of Space Explorers. He works with astronauts and musicians to creatively blend Earth and music in these movies. He was previously the Senior Education Manager of the ISS National Lab.

CADY COLEMAN – Astronaut

Dr. Cady Coleman is a former NASA astronaut, retired U.S. Air Force colonel, scientist, and advocate for inclusion in STEM fields. She has logged over 180 days in space across three missions, including two Space Shuttle flights and a six-month expedition aboard the International Space Station. She has contributed to various roles at NASA, including Chief of Robotics and lead for commercial spaceflight collaborations. Beyond her space career, Coleman is a public speaker, ABC News contributor, and co-host of Arizona State University's "Mission: Interplanetary" podcast. She inspires others through her advocacy work and recently published book, "Sharing Space: An Astronaut's Guide to Mission, Wonder, and Making Change". Cady is also a musician, playing her flute on the ISS as she watched Earth.

Earth Music Theater Live Design and Production Coordination

Jack Frisch, UprightGraphics.com

Projection and Event Videography

Alex Terrill Productions

Event Audio

Reed Sutherland

Lighting design

Alyse Maxner

Carlie Neiman lighting tech.

Deep thanks to Karen Economopoulos, Anne Davis, N. Canty, Lori & Ayaz Mahmud, Dan Barstow, Jack Frisch, Bob Ponte, Maggie Rizzi, Greg Conroy, Nick Kachulis, Cady Coleman, Kathy Couch, Meredith Bove and Mollye Maxner at A.P.E.; Ed Faits, Lynn Lovell, Lola Reed, Ricki Deal, Amelia Hartner, Rob Wilson, Maria Rocco, Jason Moses, Chris Cheek, Angie Shyr, Josh Metz, Claire Arenius, Bob Weiner, Carl Clements, Pat Tugman, Wade Wofford and Ruth Mendelson.

Your time, insights and support have helped me realize a dream.

A special thank you to Dr. Jane Goodall for inspiring us all.

-Steve

We thank the following for their generous support:



Association of Space Explorers



EarthMusicTheater.org



Terrill Productions



A2Z Science and Learning Toy Store



Audnoyz Media



West Branch Capital

EARTHMUSICTHEATER.ORG
STEVETHOMASGUITAR.COM