

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DEEP FIELD**

**The Impossible Magnitude of our Universe**

**featuring Eric Whitacre’s Virtual Choir**

**Film Premiere and Worldwide Release: Friday November 16, 2018**

On Friday, November 16, a unique film and musical experience, inspired by the Hubble Space Telescope’s iconic Deep Field image, premieres on YouTube and at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex (Florida). The film, titled *Deep Field: The Impossible Magnitude of our Universe*, was inspired by Grammy® award-winning composer Eric Whitacre’s symphonic work *Deep Field* and features Hubble’s stunning imagery including brand new visualizations and fly-throughs of far-flung galaxies, nebulas, and star clusters that depict the awesome beauty of the universe.

* A first-of-its-kind collaboration between Eric Whitacre (Los Angeles, US), producers Music Productions (London, UK), multi award-winning artists 59 Productions (London, UK), scientists and visualizers from the Space Telescope Science Institute (Baltimore, US).
* Soundtrack & film features a new, epic Virtual Choir with singers from 120 countries - more than 8,000 voices aged 4 to 87, with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Eric Whitacre Singers.
* Created as an immersive work of art and science, *Deep Field: The Impossible Magnitude of our Universe* will be released worldwide on YouTube on Friday Nov 16 at 7am Eastern Time (ET).
* Exclusive VIP premiere screening of the film (Nov 16) & public screenings (Nov 17) will take place in the IMAX Theater at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex.
* The soundtrack will be released to streaming and download services on Friday Nov 16 (world-premiere recording of *Deep Field,* conducted by the composer). A special audio & video package is available to pre-save on [Apple Music](http://radi.al/DeepFieldAppleMusic) and pre-order from [iTunes](http://radi.al/DeepFieldiTunes).
* Following release, the film *Deep Field* will be seen in presentations in museums, galleries, at festivals and science/music events worldwide. It also will be projected at concert performances, with the score performed live by orchestra and chorus.

The film paints the incredible story of the journey of discovery towards the Hubble Deep Field, an extraordinary portrait of the universe revealed by Hubble when it was pointed at a tiny, completely dark and seemingly empty patch of sky – about six days of exposure over a period of 11 days. What it revealed was an image that contained over 3,000 galaxies scattered across space and time – hundreds of billions of stars.

Created especially for this project, a new iteration of Whitacre’s ground-breaking Virtual Choir invited singers from around the world to submit their performances of *Deep Field*. Over 8,000 voices from 120 countries, aged 4 – 87, are seen and heard at the climax of the work, as the Deep Field is revealed. Recorded in 2018, Virtual Choir 5: Deep Field joins singers from all walks of life including scientists, engineers, astronauts and personnel who worked on the Hubble program. With the producers working pro-actively to reduce barriers to participation, the Virtual Choir and its community were also able to welcome refugees, hearing and sight-impaired and those with autism.

The nexus of art and science, *Deep Field: The Impossible Magnitude of our Universe* seeks to inspire and educate both young and life-long learners, and share the belief that creative thinking, art, design and music, lie at the heart of innovation.

**Ends**

**November 8, 2018**

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**NOTES TO EDITORS (contents)**

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8. **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

* *Deep Field* can be seen on demand from Nov 16 on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/ericwhitacre).
* *Deep Field* will be projected with the Charlotte Symphony & Chorus conducted by Christopher Warren-Green, Nov 30, Dec 1, 2 (2018) – [link](http://www.charlottesymphony.org/events/CAC9A8B5-1362-45A2-B4BE-69905C865986/).
* *Deep Field* will be projected with the Brussels Philharmonic & Flemish Radio Choir conducted by Eric Whitacre, Feb 21 (2019) - [link](https://www.brusselsphilharmonic.be/en/concerten/eric-whitacre-deep-field-21-02-2019).
* *Deep Field* will be screened at the NAMM Foundation Grand Rally for Music Education, Jan 26 (2019) - [link](https://www.nammfoundation.org/articles/2018-10-02/grand-rally-music-education-will-feature-eric-whitacre-and-choral-mash).
* Full list of live performances and screenings can be found at [deepfieldfilm.com/events](http://deepfieldfilm.com/events).
* Official soundtrack digital release on UNQUIET on Nov 16, 2018 available from all good outlets including [iTunes](http://radi.al/DeepFieldiTunes), [Apple Music](http://radi.al/DeepFieldAppleMusic), Spotify, Amazon and Primephonic. A special audio & video package is available to pre-save on [Apple Music](http://radi.al/DeepFieldAppleMusic) and pre-order from [iTunes](http://radi.al/DeepFieldiTunes). Please contact [Music Productions](mailto:meg@musicprods.co.uk) for review copies.
* A transatlantic collaboration: Eric Whitacre (US); Music Productions (UK); STScI (US); 59 Productions (UK).
* One of the final projects of legendary Science Visuals Developer, Zolt Levay, prior to retirement from the Space Telescope Science Institute.
* 2018 is NASA’s 60th anniversary.
* 2020 is Hubble’s 30th anniversary.
* 2021 is the projected date for the next great space observatory to be launched, the James Webb Space Telescope (collaboration between NASA, ESA and CSA).
* *Deep Field* was commissioned by the Minnesota Orchestra (Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis MN, 2015) and BBC Radio 3 for the BBC Proms (Royal Albert Hall, London, 2015).
* The soundtrack was produced by John Powell, recorded by Mike Hatch (Floating Earth) and mixed by John Traunwieser.
* Singers in Virtual Choir 5 were able to engage with a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art & design, math) program, exploring data and earning badges as they participated in the recording process.
* Singers also were invited to take part in a scientific research project to examine music and wellbeing (the experience of virtual cultural events), led by Dr. Daisy Fancourt of University College London. Results will be published in 2019.

1. **QUOTES**

**Eric Whitacre | composer, conductor:**

**“***I grew up in Nevada where it’s all about big skies – no light noise, no pollution.  The night sky is intoxicating.   As a young man obsessed with astronomy (a devotee of Carl Sagan), I watched the story of the Hubble Space Telescope unfold.   After Hubble was launched we all held our breath as scientists struggled to fix the problems with the lens that stopped the telescope seeing clearly.  Their success and quest for discovery gave us one of the greatest images of mankind, and I’ve been haunted by the beauty of the Deep Field all my life; it’s humbling.   I couldn’t think of a more profoundly important story to paint in music.  The opportunity for my partners at Music Productions and I to work with 59 Productions and STScI to create this visceral audio-visual experience, the film, and explore scale and time through music and images has been a dream.”*

**Dr. John Mace Grunsfeld | Hubble Astronaut and Former Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration:**

*“Astronomy has long permeated the arts, from architecture to poetry and literature to music. Together they enrich the human experience by allowing us to interpret the world around us in ways we can understand and push the boundaries of discovery further than we ever thought possible. The Hubble Space Telescope has not only transformed the science of astronomy, but also has revealed the beauty and richness of the fabric of the Universe. That the Hubble Deep Field became a source for musical inspiration to composer, Eric Whitacre, comes as no surprise. The product is emotionally stunning and intellectually inspiring.”*

**Lysander Ashton | Director - 59 Productions:**

*“Deep Field is a meditation on the Universe and what it means to be human in an incomprehensibly vast cosmos. The film takes us on a journey from earth all the way to this tiny patch of sky using the imagery collected over the years by the teams at NASA and STScl. The Hubble Deep Field image itself is truly mind-blowing and we hope the film offers viewers a collective moment that connects us to the Universe in a visceral and emotional way.”*

**Frank Summers | Scientific Visualization Lead - Space Telescope Science Institute:**

"*Hubble images, like Eric Whitacre’s music, are best explored, appreciated, and savored in a deliberate fashion. As a symphonic film, "Deep Field" provides the perfect setting for universal contemplation. The combination of visually stunning and complex cosmic structures with the cascading development of an equally rich and moving auditory landscape creates an intense and sublime experience."*

**Dr. Robert Williams | Astrophysicist, Former Director - Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI):**

*“The mixture of Deep Field sounds with Hubble images of the cosmos is a truly mind-blowing experience.”*

1. **ABOUT THE IMAGERY**

For *Deep Field*, the visualization team at the Space Telescope Science Institute worked with 59 Productions to revise and adapt seven previously produced sequences to fit into the symphonic and astronomical narrative. These visualizations not only depict the awesome beauty of the universe, but also express our scientific understanding of the three-dimensional nature of these celestial objects.

The STScI team also developed four new visualizations for the film. Iconic Hubble images of the Whirlpool Galaxy and the galaxy group known as Stephan’s Quintet were transformed into intergalactic experiences that take viewers soaring through the cosmos. The team also worked with supercomputer simulations from astronomers at Caltech to construct and fly-through a supremely detailed 3D model of our galaxy. Hubble image processor and accomplished photographer Zolt Levay provided the opening sequence of the film. While artist-in-residence at Capitol Reef National Park, he captured a glorious time-lapse of the Milky Way panning across the night sky.

1. **RESOURCES & LINKS**

**Deep Field**[Press Resources](http://deepfieldfilm.com/resources) (password dffpress2018\*)

[Website](http://deepfieldfilm.com/)

[Digital Booklet](https://deepfieldfilm.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/EW-Deep-Field-iTunes-Digital-Booklet-04.pdf)

[Images from the film](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hyq6q8alfpyjxmx/AAAprtlPZ2-adUN_VDuZ-Q-9a?dl=0)

[Credits](http://deepfieldfilm.com/credits)

**Eric Whitacre**

[Website](http://ericwhitacre.com/)

[Bios & Headshots](http://ericwhitacre.com/resources)

**Filmmakers**

[Space Telescope Science Institute](http://www.stsci.edu/)

[59 Productions](http://59productions.co.uk/)

**The Virtual Choir**

[Virtual Choir 1: Lux Aurumque](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7o7BrlbaDs)

[Virtual Choir 2: Sleep](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WhWDCw3Mng)

[Virtual Choir 3: Water Night](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3rRaL-Czxw)

[Virtual Choir 4 ‘Fly to Paradise’](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8oDnUga0JU)

[Eric Whitacre TED Talk: A virtual choir 2,000 voice strong](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NENlXsW4pM)

**Space**

Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex: <https://www.kennedyspacecenter.com/>

NASA: <https://www.nasa.gov/>

ESA: <https://www.esa.int/ESA>

**Hubble Space Telescope:**

<https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/hubble/story/index.html>

<https://www.spacetelescope.org/>

<http://hubblesite.org/>

New book release from Dr. Robert Williams, Oct 2018, [Hubble Deep Field and the Distant Universe](https://www.amazon.com/Hubble-Deep-Field-Distant-Universe-ebook/dp/B07HXVCMW3/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1539351599&sr=8-3-fkmr0&keywords=book+hubble+deep+field+iop)

1. **BIOGRAPHIES**

**Eric Whitacre**

Grammy®-winning composer and conductor Eric Whitacre is one of the most popular musicians of our time. His concert music has been performed throughout the world by millions of amateur and professional musicians alike, while his ground-breaking Virtual Choirs have united singers from over 120 different countries. A graduate of the prestigious Juilliard School of Music, Eric currently holds the position of Artist in Residence with the Los Angeles Master Chorale having completed a five-year term as Composer in Residence at the University of Cambridge, UK.

As conductor of the Eric Whitacre Singers he has released several chart-topping albums including chart-topping bestseller, Light and Gold. Eric has conducted choral and orchestral concerts around the globe, including sold-out concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Minnesota Orchestra. In addition to collaborations with legendary Hollywood composer Hans Zimmer, he has worked with British pop icons Laura Mvula, Imogen Heap and Annie Lennox.

A charismatic speaker, Eric has given keynote addresses for many Fortune 500 companies and global institutions including Apple, Google, the World Economic Forum in Davos, the United Nations Speaker’s Programme and two main stage TED talks.

[EricWhitacre.com](http://ericwhitacre.com/)

**The Virtual Choir**

The Virtual Choir (VC) is a global phenomenon, creating a user-generated choir that brings together singers from around the world and their love of music through the use of technology. Singers record and upload their videos from locations all over the world to be combined into one single performance, creating the Virtual Choir.

It began in 2009 as a simple experiment in social media when one young woman – a fan of Eric’s music – recorded a video of herself singing “Sleep” and shared it on YouTube.  Moved by the video, Eric responded by sending a call out to his online fans to purchase Polyphony’s recording, record themselves singing along to it, and upload the result. Eric was so impressed by the result that he decided to push the concept to the next level by recording himself conducting “Lux Aurumque”, asking Virtual Choir members to sing along to that, and the first Virtual Choir was created. Members have formed an incredible community, supporting each other in any number of ways including through music.

With more than forty million views, the VC videos have featured on worldwide TV (ABC in the US and BBC in the UK) and as installations across the globe including the Millennium Bridge, London as part of the 2012 Olympics, the opening of the Titanic 100th anniversary exhibition as well as at the closing plenary of Davos World Economic Forum. The VC has also been seen on the main stage of the revered TED conference, at the Paley Center in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington DC & at events for Google, UNICEF and the United Nations amongst others. Recent spin-off projects have included “Glow”, written especially for World of Color – Winter Dreams show which premiered at Disney California Adventure® Park, California and the first-ever Virtual Youth Choir, in partnership with UNICEF, which premiered at the opening ceremony of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

**59 Productions**

Led by directors Leo Warner, Mark Grimmer, Lysander Ashton and Richard Slaney, 59 Productions offers world-leading expertise in design for stage and live events. Their work exists at the nexus between technology and art, and the company has become the go-to team for generating creative and technical ideas to realize ambitious artistic projects across a range of disciplines: from architectural projection-mapping to exhibition design, VR experiences to events, theatrical design to technical consultancy.

Exhibitions and installations feature prominently in the company’s recent roster of commissions, including the design and creative direction of *David Bowie is*, the record-breaking exhibition seen by more than 1.8 million people on its international 10-stop tour; twentieth anniversary celebrations for Guggenheim Museum Bilbao; and a bespoke projection-mapping event to mark the re-opening of the Smithsonian’s museums of Asian Art in Washington. In February 2018, 59 Productions opened the Ecsite Award-winning permanent exhibition, *Made in Space*, at the Tycho Brahe Planetarium, Denmark's most advanced centre for popular astronomy and space research. The installation was designed and built by 59 Productions creating a seamless correspondence between the physical space and the cutting-edge interactive and immersive technologies.

[59productions.co.uk](http://59productions.co.uk/)

**Space Telescope Science Institute**

Founded in 1982, we have helped guide the most famous observatory in history, the Hubble Space Telescope.  Since its launch in 1990, we have performed the science operations for Hubble. We also lead the science and mission operations for the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), planned to launch in 2021. We will perform parts of the science operations for the Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST), in formulation for launch in the mid-2020s, and we are partners on several other NASA missions. Our staff conducts world-class scientific research; our Barbara A. Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST) curates and disseminates data from over 20 astronomical missions; and we bring science to the world through internationally recognized news, education, and public outreach programs. We value our diverse workforce and civility in the workplace, and seek to be an example for others to follow.

<http://www.stsci.edu/>

**Eric Whitacre Singers**

The Eric Whitacre Singers have established themselves as one of the finest ensembles of our day. Drawing-in audiences with a wide spectrum of age, interests and backgrounds, the choir performs music from the Renaissance to contemporary, including Lauridsen, Britten and the work of their founder and conductor, Eric Whitacre. They received exceptional and unanimous praise from critics and won a GRAMMY® award for Best Choral Performance for their debut album, *Light & Gold* on Decca/Universal. Their second album, *Water Night* went straight to no. 1 in the classical iTunes and Billboard charts. Regularly recording in London’s Abbey Road and Air Studios, the choir feature on Eric’s own label, UNQUIET, and on the soundtracks of Hollywood movies.

Celebrated performers in concert halls and sacred spaces on both sides of the Atlantic, the Eric Whitacre Singers made their BBC Proms debut in 2012 in a programme that included a collaboration with singer/songwriter Imogen Heap. The EWS were honored to sing at the Templeton Prize Laureate Ceremony for Archbishop Desmond Tutu alongside world-renowned singer and songwriter Annie Lennox, and the London African Gospel Choir. They work regularly with British soul superstar Laura Mvula, and featured at iTunes Festival, broadcast live to 119 countries, performing with Hans Zimmer. In 2018 the singers appeared at an experiential installation for fashion designer Anya Hindmarch CBE.

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

For more than seven decades the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) has been at the forefront of music-making in the UK. The Orchestra’s regular performances at its London home Cadogan Hall are complemented by a distinguished series at the Royal Festival Hall, a hugely popular series at the Royal Albert Hall, frequent visits to its seven principal regional residencies across the UK, together with the work of its award-winning community and education department RPO Resound. With a wider reach than any other UK large ensemble, the RPO has truly become Britain’s national orchestra.

Alongside its concert series and busy international touring schedule, the RPO embraces twenty-first-century opportunities, including recordings with pop stars and on film and television soundtracks, whilst its artistic priority remains paramount: the making of great music at the highest level for the widest possible audience. This would have been lauded by its Founder and first conductor, Sir Thomas Beecham, who set up the RPO in 1946, leading a vital revival in the UK’s orchestral life after World War II. As the RPO proudly looks to its future, its versatility and high standards mark it out as one of today’s most open-minded, forward-thinking symphony orchestras.

<http://rpo.co.uk>

**Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex**

Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex brings to life the epic story of the U.S. space program, offering a full day or more of fun, inspiration and educational activities, including the new Astronaut Training Experience®, which opened in February 2018, as well as Heroes & Legends, featuring the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame®, presented by Boeing, the Kennedy Space Center Tour featuring the Apollo/Saturn V Center with an actual Saturn V moon rocket, Space Shuttle Atlantis®, Shuttle Launch Experience®, IMAX® A Beautiful Planet 3D and Journey To Space 3D films, Astronaut Encounter, Journey To Mars: Explorers Wanted, Science on a Sphere®, Rocket Garden, and Cosmic Quest. Only 45 minutes from Orlando, Fla., Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex opens daily at 9 a.m. with closing times varying by season. Admission is $57 + tax for adults and $47 + tax for children ages 3 – 11. Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex offers annual passes starting at $82 + tax for adults and $67 + tax for children ages 3 – 11. For more information, call 877-313-2610 or visit [www.KennedySpaceCenter.com](http://www.kennedyspacecenter.com).

Twitter: @ExploreSpaceKSC [facebook.com/KennedySpaceCenterVisitorComplex](http://facebook.com/KennedySpaceCenterVisitorComplex) #JoinTheJourney

**vi. SPECIAL THANKS**

This project would not have been possible without support from our partners. We would like to thank:

The Dunard Fund

Boosey & Hawkes

Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY)

Hal Leonard & Larry Morton

Leigh Bureau

Primephonic

Walton Music

**vii. COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN VIRTUAL CHOIR 5: DEEP FIELD**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Afghanistan | Cyprus | Hong Kong | Morocco | Singapore |
| Algeria | Czech Republic | Hungary | Myanmar | Slovakia |
| American Samoa | Denmark | Iceland | Namibia | Slovenia |
| Antigua and Barbuda | Dominica | India | Netherlands | South Africa |
| Argentina | Dominican Republic | Indonesia | New Zealand | South Korea |
| Armenia | Ecuador | Ireland | Nicaragua | Spain |
| Australia | Egypt | Iran | Nigeria | Sri Lanka |
| Austria | El Salvador | Israel | Norway | Sweden |
| Belarus | Estonia | Italy | Oman | Switzerland |
| Belgium | eSwatini | Jamaica | Pakistan | Syria |
| Bermuda | Faroe Islands | Japan | Panama | Taiwan |
| Bolivia | Fiji | Kenya | Paraguay | Thailand |
| Bolivia | Finland | Kuwait | Peru | The Bahamas |
| Brazil | France | Kyrgyzstan | Philippines | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Bulgaria | Georgia | Latvia | Poland | Turkey |
| Cameroon | Germany | Lebanon | Portugal | UAE |
| Canada | Ghana | Lithuania | Puerto Rico | Uganda |
| Cayman Islands | Gibraltar | Luxembourg | Qatar | UK |
| Chile | Greece | Malaysia | Macedonia | Ukraine |
| China | Grenada | Malta | Romania | Uruguay |
| Colombia | Guatemala | Mexico | Russia | USA |
| Costa Rica | Guernsey | Moldova | Saudi Arabia | Venezuela |
| Croatia | Haiti | Monaco | Senegal | Vietnam |
| Cuba | Honduras | Montserrat | Serbia | Zimbabwe |