

NASA'S UNIVERSE OF SOUND

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ABSTRACT

The stunning imagery provided by NASA telescopes have long captured the worlds interest and imagination. Can this experience be enhanced and made more accessible through sonification? In 2020 the Chandra X-ray Center began a collaboration with SYSTEM Sounds to represent astronomical imagery from Chandra and other NASA telescopes through sound and music. We have explored multiple techniques and mappings from 2D image data into audio parameters, often mapping multi-wavelength image data into parallel audio streams. The first public releases reached a very large audience through NASA websites, social media accounts, and Soundcloud playlists and was featured by many international media outlets. To assess public response and accessibility we launched a user survey which collected over 4500 responses. We share the highlights of the project, discuss current work and next steps, and present early results of user engagement and feedback.

