Astronaut drops in on Kraftwerk gig, plays duet from space

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In this Wednesday, June 6, 2018 file photo, German astronaut Alexander Gerst, crew member of the mission to the International Space Station, ISS, waves as he boards prior to the launch at the Russian leased Baikonur cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. Video posted Saturday, July 21, by the European Space Agency shows German astronaut Alexander Gerst 'dropping in' for a live performance with German electronic music pioneers Kraftwerk from the International Space Station. Gerst played a duet of Kraftwerk's 1978 song "Spacelab" with the band Friday night to cheers from the audience. (AP Photo/Dmitri Lovetsky, file)

Kraftwerk fans are used to hearing otherworldly tunes, but the German electronic music pioneers took it to another level at a gig in Stuttgart.

Video posted Saturday by the European Space Agency shows German astronaut Alexander Gerst "dropping in" for a live performance from the International Space Station.

Using a tablet computer with a virtual synthesizer, Gerst played a duet of Kraftwerk's 1978 song "Spacelab" with the band Friday night to cheers from the audience.

He's not the first space musician. Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield recorded a cover of David Bowie's "Space Oddity" and played a duet with the Barenaked Ladies while 400 kilometers (250 miles) above the Earth in 2013.

American astronaut Ron McNair planned to play saxophone from orbit with Jean Michel Jarre in 1986 but died in the Challenger tragedy.