

Queen guitarist Brian May releases tribute to NASA spacecraft

December 19 2018



Guitarist Brian May of Queen also holds a doctorate in astrophysics, and is paying musical tribute to a NASA spacecraft that will conduct a far-flung flyby

Jamming and astrophysics go hand-in-hand for Queen lead guitarist Brian May, who announced Wednesday he is releasing a musical tribute

to a far-flung NASA spacecraft that is about to make history.

The US space agency's New Horizon's [spacecraft](#) will soon make the most distant [flyby](#) of a cosmic object ever, zipping by an object called Ultima Thule—a billion miles (1.6 billion kilometers) beyond Pluto, on January 1.

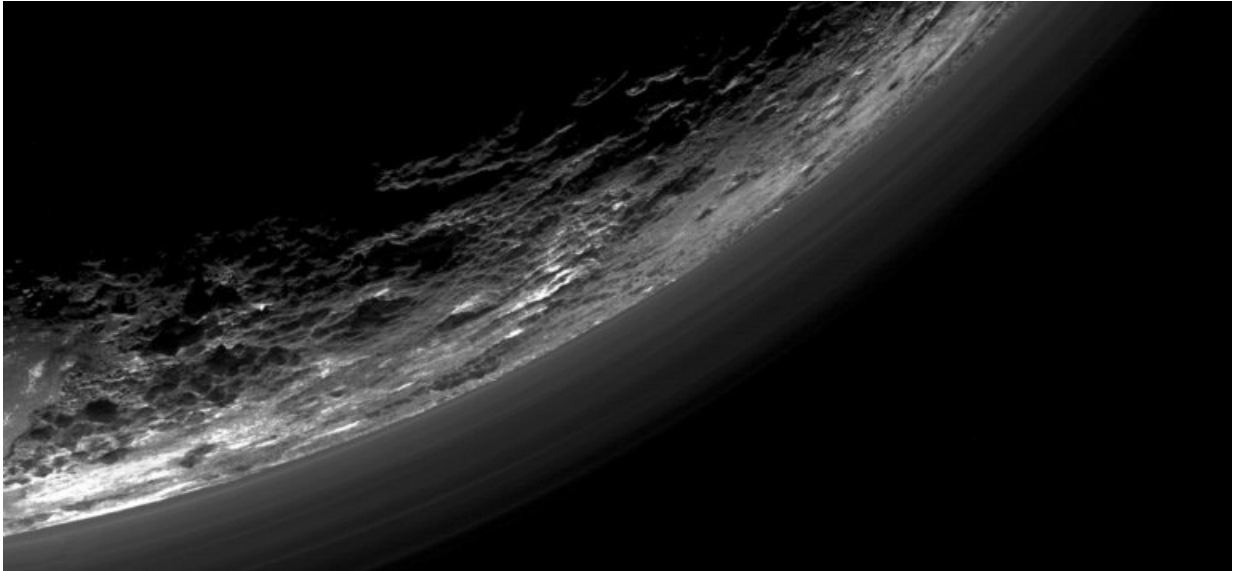
A NASA scientist involved with the mission asked the legendary British guitarist behind "Bohemian Rhapsody"—who also holds a doctorate in astrophysics—to contribute some music to play as the flyby occurs.

And May, 71, agreed. The "New Horizons" track (Ultima Thule mix), which will be released New Year's Day, is his first solo single since 1998.

"For me it's been an exciting challenge to bring two sides of my life together—astronomy and music," said May in a statement.

"I was inspired by the idea that this is the furthest that the Hand of Man has ever reached -- it will be by far the most distant object we have ever seen at close quarters, through the images which the spacecraft will beam back to Earth," he added.

"To me it epitomizes the human spirit's unceasing desire to understand the Universe we inhabit."



Haze layers above Pluto's limb, taken by the Ralph/Multispectral Visible Imaging Camera (MVIC) on NASA's New Horizons spacecraft during its mission three years ago

Portions of the wailing guitar track, overlaid with the voice of the late legendary scientist Stephen Hawking, are already available on www.brianmay.com.

A third installment is expected in the next few days.

Scientists do not yet have a clear picture of exactly what Ultima Thule is, whether a single [object](#) or a cluster, spanning about 19 miles (30 kilometers) in diameter.

But when New Horizons passes, it should capture images at a resolution of 98 to 230 feet (30 to 70 meters) per pixel.

New Horizons completed a successful flyby of Pluto three years ago, and

returned stunning images of the dwarf planet.

© 2018 AFP

Citation: Queen guitarist Brian May releases tribute to NASA spacecraft (2018, December 19)
retrieved 24 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2018-12-queen-guitarist-brian-tribute-nasa.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.