



# WALTZ INTO SPACE

Vienna and the ESA send the Danube Waltz into space to mark Strauss' 200th birthday

## **An interstellar music project**

March 10, 2025 – To mark the 200th birthday of Johann Strauss II, the Vienna Tourist Board and the European Space Agency (ESA), in partnership with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, are sending his masterpiece “By the Beautiful Blue Danube” into space. On May 31, 2025, the waltz will be transmitted into the universe as an electromagnetic wave at the speed of light from the ESA Deep Space Antenna DSA 2 in Cebreros, Spain. The signal will catch up with NASA’s Voyager 1 space probe just 23 hours later.

## **Correcting a cosmic omission from 1977**

The “Waltz into Space” mission is correcting a historical omission: the Danube Waltz was not immortalized on the Voyager Golden Record when it was launched in 1977. It is regarded as the unofficial anthem of space, in no small part due to Stanley Kubrick’s “2001: A Space Odyssey”. **Mayor of Vienna, Michael Ludwig:** *“Once again, the Austrian capital will be presenting itself as an innovative world capital of music – a city that not only preserves its heritage, but also generates impetus for the future with visionary ideas.”* *“In 2025, Vienna will celebrate the 200th birthday of its Waltz King with 65 productions over 250 performance days all over Vienna. Under the motto “King of Waltz. Queen of Music”, the Vienna Tourist Board has chosen a progressive approach to Johann Strauss II, which reaches its brilliant climax with ‘Waltz into Space’.”*

## **STREAM IT UP! The Danube Waltz at the speed of light**

- **Interstellar concert:** On May 31, 2025 at 20:30 CET, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Petr Popelka will perform a galactic concert at the MAK – Museum of Applied Arts, with a live broadcast of the Danube Waltz being transmitted into space at around 21:30 CET.
- **Global streaming events:** Live broadcasts in Vienna, New York (Bryant Park) and Madrid (at the ESA Deep Space Antenna DSA 2).



- **Interactive participation with “SpaceNotes”:** Music fans can symbolically send a note of the Danube Waltz into space. Target: 13,743 note sponsors.

## **50th anniversary of ESA & Strauss’ 200th birthday: Music meets the sciences**

Josef Aschbacher, Director General of the ESA, explains: “Our technology makes it possible to transmit not only scientific data, but also human art over vast distances. In 2025 we have a wonderful double anniversary: the 200th anniversary of the birth of Johann Strauss II and the 50th anniversary of the ESA. I am delighted that we can celebrate both by broadcasting a live performance of the Danube Waltz into space from our Cebreros ground station.”

Norbert Kettner, Director of the Vienna Tourist Board, adds: “Stanley Kubrick’s ‘2001: A Space Odyssey’ made the Danube Waltz the anthem of space – the omission of the most famous of all waltzes from the 1977 Voyager Golden Record is a cosmic mistake that we are correcting with ‘Waltz into Space’.”

### **Countdown with “Space Anthem” & amusing mission film**

The mini-documentary “Space Anthem”, which highlights the special connection between the Danube Waltz and outer space, has already been released to set the mood. There is also an entertaining [short film](#) that tells the story of how Strauss’ waltz was “left behind” in 1977.

### **Deep Space Antenna sends Donauwalzer on an interstellar journey**

The journey of the Danube Waltz will begin on May 31, 2025 at around 21:30 CET as the highlight of a concert given by the Vienna Symphony Orchestra and will be streamed live on [space.vienna.info](http://space.vienna.info). The signal will reach Voyager 1 after 23 hours and continue on its infinite journey – a musical message from Vienna for the future of music in the universe.

## **LINKS**

- Waltz into Space press photos: [Vienna Tourist Board Newsroom](#) or [Dropbox-Page](#)
- Waltz into Space website: [space.vienna.info](http://space.vienna.info)
- Space Anthem: [spaceanthem.vienna.info](http://spaceanthem.vienna.info)
- Mission film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Zt8OtLS6Ks>
- King of Waltz. Queen of Music: [strauss.vienna.info](http://strauss.vienna.info)
- City Guide App “ivie”: [ivie.wien.info](http://ivie.wien.info)
- Vienna in Strauss and Braus 2025: [www.johannstrauss2025.at](http://www.johannstrauss2025.at)
- European Space Agency (ESA): [www.esa.int/](http://www.esa.int/)



- Estrack Network: [www.esa.int/Enabling\\_Support/Operations/ESA\\_Ground\\_Stations](http://www.esa.int/Enabling_Support/Operations/ESA_Ground_Stations)
- Cebreros Station press photos  
[www.esa.int/ESA\\_Multimedia/Images/2005/06/Cebreros\\_station](http://www.esa.int/ESA_Multimedia/Images/2005/06/Cebreros_station) or  
[www.esa.int/ESA\\_Multimedia/Images/2006/04/Deep\\_space\\_radio\\_antenna\\_in\\_Cebreros](http://www.esa.int/ESA_Multimedia/Images/2006/04/Deep_space_radio_antenna_in_Cebreros)

At [photo.vienna.info](http://photo.vienna.info) you can access more than 1,000 photos of Vienna for your report after completing a short sign-up process; video footage is available at [footage.vienna.info](http://footage.vienna.info).

## CONTACTS FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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## CREDITS

The concept was born from a **collaborative creative workshop** between the Vienna Tourist Board and Jung von Matt DONAU.

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- Microsite programming: *Thomas Strobl*
- Mission film:
  - Director: *Bart Timmer*
  - Production Studio: *Chelsy*
  - Sound Studio: *soundfiler*
  - Cast (Mission Director): *Adam Astill*
  - Cast (Assistant): *Hasan Dixon*