

New worship anthem from LifeWay Worship features out-of-this-world audio

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (Special) – A star-studded ensemble of celestial bodies literally adorns a new worship anthem celebrating the God of creation.

Count the Stars, produced by Lifeway Worship at Southern Baptists' LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, features the electromagnetic “voices” of planets, stars, and galaxies. The authentic audio recordings recorded and licensed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) provide an audio background to the anthem, while telescopic NASA photographs of deep space visually adorn the piece.



Hooper



Keveren



Adams

Arranged by Kent Hooper, an independent music producer and engineer/owner of house of BIG studios in Franklin, Tenn., and Phillip Keveren, a veteran of the Christian music community in Nashville, Count the Stars reflects the theme of Psalm 8:3-4 in which King David writes, “When I observe your heaven, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is a human being that you remember him, a son of man that you look after him?”

Craig Adams, creative director at Lifeway Music, said, “When I first heard the song, I was blown away by how it opens your imagination to consider how big God is. Not long before this, I had been privy to a study where NASA had electromagnetically captured the sounds of celestial bodies. I go to church with some NASA employees who were able to help us get some of those sounds, along with footage from deep space to accompany the song.”

In Count the Stars, the sounds of the cosmos are overlaid with human voices declaring praise through the chorus:

When I try to count the stars

I remember just how big you are.

Who am I that you would think of me?

I can't fathom all you've done.

The beauty and the wonder.

Of your faithfulness in everything I see

I'm reminded of the mighty God You are

When I try to count the stars.

"When I first read the lyrics, I had the feeling we've all experienced when laying on a blanket, looking up at the stars, and realizing it's just so vast. It makes you feel, not insignificant, but small in a way that's big," said Keveren, who described the arrangement as "a cosmic stew" made up of digital keyboard samplings, a traditional orchestra, human voices, and the sounds of the universe.

From its first line to closing refrain, Count the Stars seeks to create a sense of awe juxtaposed against the humbling knowledge that the Lord would have His eye upon the very humanity He took on through the incarnation. The song's bridge hints at parallels between the first light of creation and the light of Christ which overcomes the darkness:

You set the heavens in motion

Speaking the chaos to life

In the blink of a moment, darkness surrendered to light.

"We know that the rocks and the hills, the streams and the clouds, the planets and galaxies—the entire universe is singing the song of God," said Adams. "Our hope is that this song would not only stretch people's minds and hearts, but also their souls as they join in, every day, the great song of creation."

For a preview of Count the Stars, visit <https://youtu.be/AI2UtjVVYdY> (advertisements will appear before video). Ordering information can be found at Lifeway.com.