



## NASA scientists hope singing trees could help us reach another planet

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But while trees are ready for the spotlight, the spacecraft at the center of the acoustic experiment has yet to be constructed.

Steve Matousek, advanced concept manager at NASA JPL's Innovation Lab, says the team will start testing prototypes based on cubesats in the next year. By (hopefully) operating continuously for 200 years, the spacecraft would push the constraints of technological obsolescence beyond the limited lifespans of the cellphones, [tablets](#) and [laptops](#) that populate Earth today.

"The design has no moving parts, and the electronics are on only 1% of the time," says Matousek, who has worked on missions from Voyager to Juno to Mars Cube One. "Imagine if your car, or your computer, or your phone, needed to last 200 years. The simpler the spacecraft, the better."

The Space Song Foundation is [raising money for the Tree of Life on Kickstarter](#), where the project has pulled in more than \$11,500 toward its \$15,000 goal, with three days remaining in the campaign. (Keep in mind that not all Kickstarter projects deliver on time or as promised.)

If all goes according to plan, the first two trees will start "singing" in public spaces in New York and Los Angeles, with speakers broadcasting the duet in real time. Funds raised on Kickstarter will go toward the equipment needed to wire up the two trees.

So what, exactly, does it sound like when a spacecraft and trees share the mic? Don't expect anything like David Bowie's *Space Oddity* or the Beatles' *Across the Universe*. Sample audio for the project sounds more like the steady screech you hear during tests of the Emergency Broadcast System.

That's just the baseline track, though. The song will be open source. Musicians can add to it, DJs can remix it and scientists can use it to detect shifts in data sets. It will belong to all of us.

Source:<https://www.cnet.com/news/nasa-scientists-hope-singing-trees-could-help-us-reach-exoplanet-proxima-b/>