

Public Outreach

40 Years of Effelsberg Radio Telescope

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The 40th anniversary of the Effelsberg radio telescope is enclosed by two specific dates. The telescope was officially opened on May 12, 1971 and the full commencement of observations started on August 01, 1972. The time from May 2011 to August 2012 has shown a series of celebrations and public outreach activities in the context of the anniversary.

We report here on three particular events, a concert at the Effelsberg radio observatory and two visits of radio and newspaper teams on site which were connected with quiz contests where people could win the participation on two very specific talks and guided tours at the Effelsberg radio telescope.

The concert took place on Sunday, June 24. The symphonic wind orchestra "Orchesterverein Hilgen 1912 e.V." performed "The Planets", an orchestral suite composed by Gustav Holst about 100 years ago, followed by John Williams "Star Wars" theme, both with astronomical aspects:

http://www3.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/div/effelsberg/40years/Konzert_web.pdf

The poor weather conditions did not allow for an open-air event, but the public could still enjoy the orchestral performance as well as an entertaining talk by Michael Kramer about the "sounds of the universe" under a big tent built in front of the telescope for the occasion.

Fig. 1-3 give some impressions of the concert, visitors listening to the music, the orchestra performing in the tent and Michael Kramer, director at MPIfR, together with Johannes Stert, the conductor of the orchestra.



Fig. 1-3: Anniversary concert at Effelsberg radio observatory on Sunday, June 24, 2012.

Photo: MPIfR/N. Junkes.