

Space Race

A song cycle celebrating the first moon landing

Words: Phil Cummings Music: Glyn Lehmann



SCRIPT

Newsreader

Good evening, welcome to the bulletin on this day April 12, 1961. In breaking news, cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin has become the first human to orbit the earth. Gagarin successfully completed a 108-minute orbital flight in his spacecraft, Vostok 1.

Song 1: Gagarin (Beyond the Blue)

Newsreader

This is the news; September 12, 1962. In a rousing speech today at Rice University President John F Kennedy outlined a plan to put a man on the moon. Announcing a significant increase in funding for space exploration the president made it clear that the decade ahead would prove to be one of the most challenging and exciting in the history of mankind.

Song 2: Space Race (To Every Question)

This song contains audio of Kennedy's Space Race speech September 12, 1962 speaking at Rice University – text, audio and video links are at: <https://er.jsc.nasa.gov/seh/ricetalk.htm>

"We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy but because they are hard." JFK, 1962

Newsreader

I am happy to be reporting to you on this day; a day of great human achievement. We have followed this journey every step of the way and I can now tell you that man is on the moon! The Eagle has landed!

Song 3: The Children of the World (July 1969)

Newsreader

Welcome to the bulletin and the news of an Apollo 11 homecoming. Our hearts were in our mouths, the world stood still; waiting, anxiously waiting, to see if the 'men from the moon' were going to make it home safely. There was always the danger that the command module might hit our atmosphere at the wrong angle, burn up and disintegrate. Those few minutes, when the command module re-entered the atmosphere and the radios fell silent, were the most anxious moments this newsreader has ever experienced...

Song 4: Apollo 11 (Homecoming)

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Backing tracks, scores and lyrics available from glynlehmann.com/Space-Race