



50th
Anniversary
1969-2019

Saturn V and Apollo 11 are GO!



Commander Neil Armstrong



Command Module Pilot Mike Collins



Lunar Module Pilot "Buzz" Aldrin





Let's take a *musical* Apollo 11 mission to the moon to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

Since the beginning, humans have gazed up at the moon and wanted to touch it. Many songs have been written about this dream. Our overture was written by noted jazz stylist, Raymond Scott. His 1949 piece is entitled *Dedicatory Piece To The Crew And Passengers Of The First Experimental Rocket Express To The Moon*.

Premiering in 1947 was Les Baxter's *Music Out Of The Moon*, a six-part suite written by Harry Revel, with Dr Samuel Hoffman playing the Theremin. Neil took a cassette tape with this work (among others) on the mission. Talking over the music is President Kennedy in an edited edition of his 1962 Rice University speech, challenging the nation to make that dream a reality. And we would.

Shortly after Sputnik shocked the world, records about satellites and rockets took off. The Scientists' *First Man To The Moon* is an unreleased single from ~1959.

By July 1969, we had all the pieces in place. At 9:32AM on the 16th, Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and "Buzz" Aldrin rode the mighty Saturn V on their way to history.

John Wesley Caves' *Rocket To The Moon* will pass the time until Trans Lunar Injection.

The big-belled Service Module engine fires and they're on their way. During the three day voyage we'll look at Mother Earth and groove to Joe Harnell: *Fly Me To The Moon*; a song written specifically for the mission: Thelma Houston: *Everybody Gets To Go To The Moon*; Leonard Nimoy (as Science Officer Spock): *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Earth*; the Australian group Oak Apple Day Plus The Deadly Pair: *Moon Shot*; Pearls Before Swine: *Rocket Man*; and another '57 rocker: Wesley Reynolds: *Trip To The Moon*.

Arriving at their destination, the Lunar Orbit Insertion command is given and The Dead tell tales of *The Mountains Of The Moon*.

The next day, July 20 at 4:16PM, Neil guides the Lunar Module *Eagle* to a *Soft Landing On The Moon*. Walter seems stunned and Goldie is just confused.

While the world waits for the astros to venture out onto the lunar surface, there's television network time to fill. The BBC has Pink Floyd play *Moonhead* live against a lunar



backdrop; whilst ABC invited Duke Ellington, who premieres *Moon Maiden*.

Neil steps off the LM pad at 10:56 and says those famous words. Leave it to The Mormon Tabernacle Choir & The Philadelphia Brass Ensemble to “embellish” it just a little. John Stewart (of Kingston Trio fame) gives us his interpretation, recorded just days after the mission was completed.

Buzz joins Neil and they spend about two and a half hours gathering samples and placing three experiments. The Johnny Harris Orchestra (*Footprints On The Moon*) and Joe Simon (*Moon Walk (Part I)*) provide some traveling music.

Soon, it's time for a little rest and then the most critical part: the launching of the Ascent section of the Lunar Module and a rendezvous with Michael Collins in *Columbia*.



On the way home we'll celebrate our historic achievement with Jon & Robin *There's An American Flag On The Moon*.

To counteract that sugar, here's an unreleased single by Peter Tosh—a little ganja-infused reggae retelling of the adventure (what a hoot, mon!).

Splashdown and the mission is almost over. The Byrds salute the crew, while Alan Wilson of Canned Heat was concerned that we'd pollute the moon, just like here (*Poor Moon*).

Dream realized and challenge met.

Billy Bragg wonders what happened to our spirit with *The Space Race Is Over* to wrap up our musical mission.



Hope you enjoyed this little musical adventure. I tried to use only music from that time frame, including some items you might not have heard before. It was hard winnowing down the hundreds of space race-themed tracks to just a few and place them where they'd fit best. There's certainly quite the variety of styles!

Panorama composite created by Moonpans. Please go online and buy their magnificent prints or books. All other Apollo 11 images are courtesy of NASA.





Duke Ellington Live!



Command Module "Columbia"



Splashdown & Recovery



Lunar Module "Eagle"



Top Brass Celebrate



Home Safe!