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Space station to stream Abu Dhabi students' music

Original compositions by Emirati, American win Astrobeat contest organised by NYUAD

ABU DHABI
BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter

Two students are all set for a literally “out-of-the-world” launch of their musical compositions after winning a space music competition organised by the NYU Abu Dhabi (NYUAD).

American student Summer Reid, who is visiting NYUAD in Spring 2024, and NYUAD Emirati alumnus Nadine Kabbani, won the Astrobeat — Music from Space competition.

The inaugural contest offers students a rare opportunity to have their musical compositions launched into space aboard a SpaceX rocket. Both submitted original compositions, which



■ The compositions were recorded at NYUAD by Gazellen Records, the student-run label led by Matteo Marciano.

will be streamed from the International Space Station (ISS) in a special event this September.

Astrobeat (SUP-2023-09), is a project financed by the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCAST). The ISS payload opportunity is made avail-

able by Nanoracks, through its agreement with Nasa's US National Lab. The project is led by Leonardo Barilaro, senior lecturer in aerospace engineering at MCAST, also known as the space pianist.

Associate Professor of Music

WHAT WINNING SUBMISSIONS ARE ABOUT

Summer Reid's winning submission was an evocative piece titled *Little Brooks* inspired by a deeply meaningful family reunion. “I'm so incredibly proud of this song and so grateful for this opportunity. As a child, my dream was to be an astronaut, so having my voice floating around the ISS is literally a dream come true. I'm so excited for this opportunity,” she said.



Nadine Kabbani's experimental composition titled *No Gravity* merges celestial-inspired synthesizers with classical instruments, aiming to create a futuristic and timeless soundscape. “It is an incredible honour to have my music streamed to space as part of the Astrobeat project, and the experience feels truly surreal,” said Kabbani.



Kabbani is a recent graduate from NYUAD's legal studies and music programme and Reid is a senior pursuing a bachelor's degree in Music Business at NYU Steinhardt.

at NYUAD Carlos Guedes co-chaired the board that selected the winners along with Barilaro.

“Their compositions will be streamed from space alongside my music, in collaboration with the Grammy-nominated cellist Tina Guo and world-renowned producer Steve Maz-

zaro, as well as the music of Carlos Guedes,” Barilaro said.

In 2022, NYUAD research scientist Dimitra Atri produced the world's first ever Mars Atlas in Arabic. It aims to make data from the Hope probe more accessible to Arabic speakers in the UAE and around the world.