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Scientists replicate sounds of Mars

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The sounds of Mars and Venus have been revealed for the first time by scientists.

A team from the University of Southampton used physics and mathematics to replicate sounds from lightning on Venus to whirlwinds on Mars and ice volcanoes on Saturn's largest moon.

They have also modelled the effects of different atmospheres, pressures and temperatures on Venus and Titan, and found that on Venus humans would sound like bass Smurfs.

Professor Tim Leighton, of the university's Institute for Sound and Vibration Research, said: "We have been rigorous in our use of physics taking into account atmospheric conditions."

"On Venus, the pitch of your voice would become much deeper. That is because the pressure is so high that the vocal cords vibrate more slowly through this 'gassy soup'."

"However, the speed of sound in the atmosphere on Venus is much faster than it is on Earth, so your brain interprets the size of a speaker (presumably an evolutionary trait that allowed animals to hear animal call in the night was something that was small enough to eat or so big as to be scary)." Leighton said.

"When we hear a voice from Venus, we think the speaker is small, but with a deep bass sound like the bass Smurfs."

Prof Leighton, who has been working on the sounds of space for the last ten years and has even recorded a methane waterfall in space, added: "I'm interested in what music would sound like in space."

"If astronauts are based on Mars for several months, they might just take musical inspiration from the planet. What would they sound like? As a scientist, I reckon the most exciting thing to work on is something that's never been done before."

**The sounds will be added to the Flight Through The Universe shows this Easter at th
near Winchester, Hampshire.**

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