

# Eclipse Soundscapes Press Conference

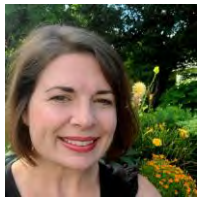
The Eclipse Soundscapes team gathered to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about our project and the upcoming total solar eclipse.

## Meet the Panel



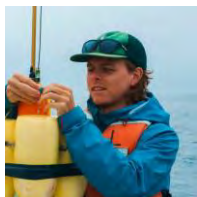
### **Dr. Henry "Trae" Winter, Eclipse Soundscapes Co-Lead**

Dr. Henry "Trae" Winter III, is the Chief Scientist and Co-Founder of the ARISA Lab. Dr. Winter has worked on eight NASA missions observing the Sun. His primary research focus is improving computer simulations to explore how energy is released in the Sun's atmosphere and how this happens in other stars. Dr. Winter has designed video wall exhibits for the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, the National Air and Space Museum, North Carolina State University's Hunt Library, and the Harvard Art Museums' Lightbox Gallery.



### **MaryKay Severino, Eclipse Soundscapes Co-Lead**

MaryKay Severino is the Educational Director and Co-Founder of the ARISA Lab. After earning a business degree from Villanova University, she went on to earn her Master's degree in Education and worked in public school systems and universities in Taiwan, South Korea, and the United States. Living abroad gave MaryKay a strong understanding of the challenges faced by anyone who communicates differently. She is excited to use her skills to promote, plan, and execute a project which will bring the amazement and wonder of an eclipse to more kinds of people.



### **Dr. Will Oestreich, Science Advisory Board**

Will explores animal behavior in dynamic and changing ecosystems, often by listening for the behavioral information encoded in the sounds that animals produce. He is particularly interested in how animal groups acquire and share information about their surroundings, how they make behavioral decisions, and how we can use this information to inform more equitable and effective ecosystem management. Will currently conducts this work as a postdoctoral fellow at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. He previously completed a PhD in Biology at Stanford University and held positions at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Natural Resources Defense Council.



## Eclipse Soundscapes Q&A

### **Where did the idea for Eclipse Soundscapes come from?**

“Years ago, a friend told me that during a total solar eclipse, crickets began chirping. There are actually multiple anecdotal reports of this happening. It occurred to me that eclipses could be studied through sound and other senses. We have traditionally thought of solar eclipses as visual events, but by opening it up to our other senses it becomes a much richer and more accessible experience.” –Dr. Henry “Trae” Winter

### **What do you hope to learn from this project?**

“During a solar eclipse, the sky transitions between light and dark and back to light again very quickly, almost like a rapid day-night cycle. We know that many species change their acoustic behavior between the day and night, but whether this is driven by changes in light or other factors is not always clear. Because lightness and darkness become uncoupled from day and night during a solar eclipse, these events provide a natural experiment to explore the cues underlying animals' acoustic behaviors and changes in the broader acoustic environment or soundscape.” –Dr. Will Oestreich

### **Why is public participation important?**

“Eclipse Soundscapes participants are located in various places across the entire path of the eclipse observing or collecting audio data. This allows us to capture much more data than we would be able to capture alone. Each one of these observations or soundscape audio recordings is a unique snapshot of a particular area. The more audio data and observations we have, the better we can answer questions about how specific ecosystems respond to the eclipse.” –MaryKay Severino

### **What kind of animal and insect behaviors are you expecting to capture?**

“Crickets are a great example of wildlife that might respond to an eclipse, so we are putting an emphasis on collecting data in meadows and other places where these insects may be found. But participants will be collecting data across the whole diversity of ecosystems that are covered by the path of totality. Some ecosystems may have soundscapes that are influenced by human activity while other ecosystems might be influenced by different types of wildlife, so there are likely to be some surprises.” –Dr. Will Oestreich



## **What will happen with the audio data that is collected by the project, will it be available to the public?**

“All audio data from the Eclipse Soundscapes Project will be freely available on the Rainforest Connection database. That means scientists, artists — anyone really — can access the data and learn from it or create with it. It’s exciting for both us and our participants that this data will not only benefit our project, but will act as a building block for future endeavors.” –Dr. Henry “Trae” Winter

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## **Contact**

For media inquiries regarding the Eclipse Soundscapes Project, please visit [eclipsesoundscapes.org/media-kit](https://eclipsesoundscapes.org/media-kit) or contact Communications Coordinator Kelsey Perrett at [info@eclipsesoundscapes.org](mailto:info@eclipsesoundscapes.org).

