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A Gentle Rain of Starlight: The Story of Astronomy of Mauna Kea (Island Heritage, Honolulu,) is profusely illustrated, with more than a hundred entrancing photos of the stars, the skies and life in and about Hawai'i's cosmic home.

Overview[edit] With a concept first proposed in , telescope designers at the University of California Terry Mast and Lawrence Berkeley Labs Jerry Nelson had been developing the technology necessary to build a large, ground-based telescope. With a design in hand, a search for the funding began. In , Howard B. Keck of the W. Construction of Keck I began in September , with first light occurring on 24 November using only nine of the eventual 36 segments. With construction of the first telescope well advanced, further donations allowed the construction of a second telescope starting in . In the case of the Keck Observatory telescopes each of the primary mirrors is composed of 36 hexagonal segments that work together as a single unit. Each segment is 1. During observation, the computer-controlled system of sensors and actuators adjusts the position of each segment, relative to its neighbors, to an accuracy of four nanometers. This twice-per-second adjustment counters the effect of gravity as the telescope moves, in addition to other environmental and structural effects that can affect the mirror shape. Each Keck Observatory telescope sits on an altazimuth mount. Most current 8â€”10 m class telescopes use altazimuth designs due to the reduced structural requirements compared to older equatorial designs. The primary mirrors of each of the two telescopes are 10 meters . However, all of the light collected by the Keck Observatory primary mirrors . The telescopes are equipped with a suite of instruments, both cameras and spectrometers that allow observations across much of the visible and near infrared spectrum. Management[edit] The Keck Observatory is managed by the California Association for Research in Astronomy, a non-profit c 3 organization whose board of directors includes representatives from Caltech and the University of California. Telescope time is allocated by the partner institutions. Caltech, the University of Hawaii System, and the University of California accept proposals from their own researchers. Jerry Nelson was the project scientist for the Keck Telescope, and he also contributed to later multi-mirror projects until he died in June . Nelson was behind one of the key innovations of the Keck telescope, the use of multiple thin segments acting as one mirror to provide the reflecting surface. Bars move in from each side to form up to 46 short slits. Its spectral capabilities have resulted in many breakthrough discoveries, such as the detection of planets outside our solar system and direct evidence for a model of the Big Bang theory. This instrument has detected more extrasolar planets than any other in the world. The radial velocity precision is up to one meter per second 1. LRIS The Low Resolution Imaging Spectrograph is a faint-light instrument capable of taking spectra and images of the most distant known objects in the universe. The instrument is equipped with a red arm and a blue arm to explore stellar populations of distant galaxies, active galactic nuclei , galactic clusters , and quasars. The LWS is now retired from science observations. This sensitivity makes it ideal for ultra-deep studies of galactic formation and evolution, the search for proto-galaxies and images of quasar environments. It has provided ground-breaking studies of the Galactic center, and is also used to study protoplanetary disks , and high-mass star-forming regions. NIRC was retired from science observations in . Typical programs include mapping surface features on Solar System bodies, searching for planets around other stars, and analyzing the morphology of remote galaxies. NIRSPEC The Near Infrared Spectrometer studies very high redshift radio galaxies , the motions and types of stars located near the Galactic Center , the nature of brown dwarfs , the nuclear regions of dusty starburst galaxies, active galactic nuclei, interstellar chemistry, stellar physics, and Solar System science. OSIRIS takes spectra in a small field of view to provide a series of images at different wavelengths. This long baseline gave the interferometer an effective angular resolution of 5 milliarcseconds mas at 2. Several back-end instruments allowed the interferometer to operate in a variety of modes, operating in H, K, and L-band near infrared, as well as nulling interferometry. As of mid the Keck Interferometer has been discontinued for lack of funding. The instrument is currently in mothballed status and could be reactivated if funding permits. Both Keck Observatory telescopes are equipped with laser guide star adaptive optics , which compensates for the blurring due to atmospheric turbulence. The first AO system operational on a large telescope, the equipment has been constantly upgraded to expand the capability. The night sky and

Keck Observatory laser for adaptive optics. Keck Observatory at sunset.

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2: W. M. Keck Observatory - Wikipedia

A Gentle Rain of Starlight has 4 ratings and 0 reviews. A fascinating tale of scientific discovery presented through breathtaking photographs and captiva.

Additional Track Information Gentle Rain Of Starlight album for sale 13 Description What music would you listen to while exploring the starry winter sky, enjoying the solitude of a star-filled night, drifting through space across lagoons of silver light, and having a romantic interlude under a distant sun? These 13 evocative sound journeys were created for the rarefied atmosphere of the planetarium dome. Now, they soar free as soulful explorations of the stars. Fall in love with the cosmos all over again! I must say the job has been done well as the music glides through sensitive, light corridors, tapping into an accessible pool of slightly Serrie-kindred sound currents in which softness and romance are always nearby. The overall sound is well done but very mellow, and the varied but recognizable sound palette of the Korg Karma shows up quite a lot as leading voice on most tracks. So look out for lots of sparkling sound and semi-melodic washes scattered over all tracks, carrying you away on a peaceful and gentle cosmic journey. Personal highlight is the great swirling sound textures of Celestial Solitude. Part of what separates Petersen who composes his music for planetarium shows and then releases it on disc from other space music artists is how he apparently views space as a warm, inviting and friendly place, where any darkness and mysteries are seldom foreboding or scary. His music is filled with a flowing melodicism as well as a tangible sense of gentle awe and wonder. Another characteristic of his music is how he structures it, relying more on notes and refrains rather than on the more typical for the genre pads, washes and textures although they are all here as well. As with previous Geodesium albums, the CD is technically excellent, from the quality of synthesizers and keyboards to the flawless production, mastering and engineering. With thirteen tracks on the album, describing them all would take way too many words. Opening with what could be the musical equivalent of the titular reference, the title track blends high-pitched tones with lush lower register pads and whistling keyboards. It has an air of mystery to it with a slight "edginess" and I found the melodic refrain to be particularly pleasing to my ears and I enjoyed how the song evolved over its duration. If planetarium directors all over the world think Mark Petersen aptly evokes the cosmos in his music, the guy must be on to something. There is a fresh new sound to this new installment, though it sounds very much like "Fourth Universe" except that this CD has more depth and emotions to it like never heard before. I would highly recommend this CD to just about anyone who likes to add floating space music to their planetarium show at home or at the theatres. Perhaps this is just me. Anyway, excellent work as usual, Mark C.

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4: Geodesium - Wikipedia

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5: A Gentle Rain of Starlight: The Story of Astronomy on Mauna Kea by Michael J. West

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7: A Gentle Rain of Starlight by Geodesium on Amazon Music Unlimited

A Gentle Rain Of Starlight's title should give you a good idea of what to expect: music which cruises gently through the cosmos at a leisurely pace, sometimes speeding up but never to the point of warp speed.

8: Synesthetic jazz singer Kathy Kosins paints the sounds she hears

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9: Geodesium - Gentle Rain Of Starlight CD Album

All these soundscapes, and more, await the listener on A Gentle Rain Of Starlight, Mark C. Petersen's Geodesium release. These 13 evocative sound journeys were created for the rarefied atmosphere of the planetarium dome.

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