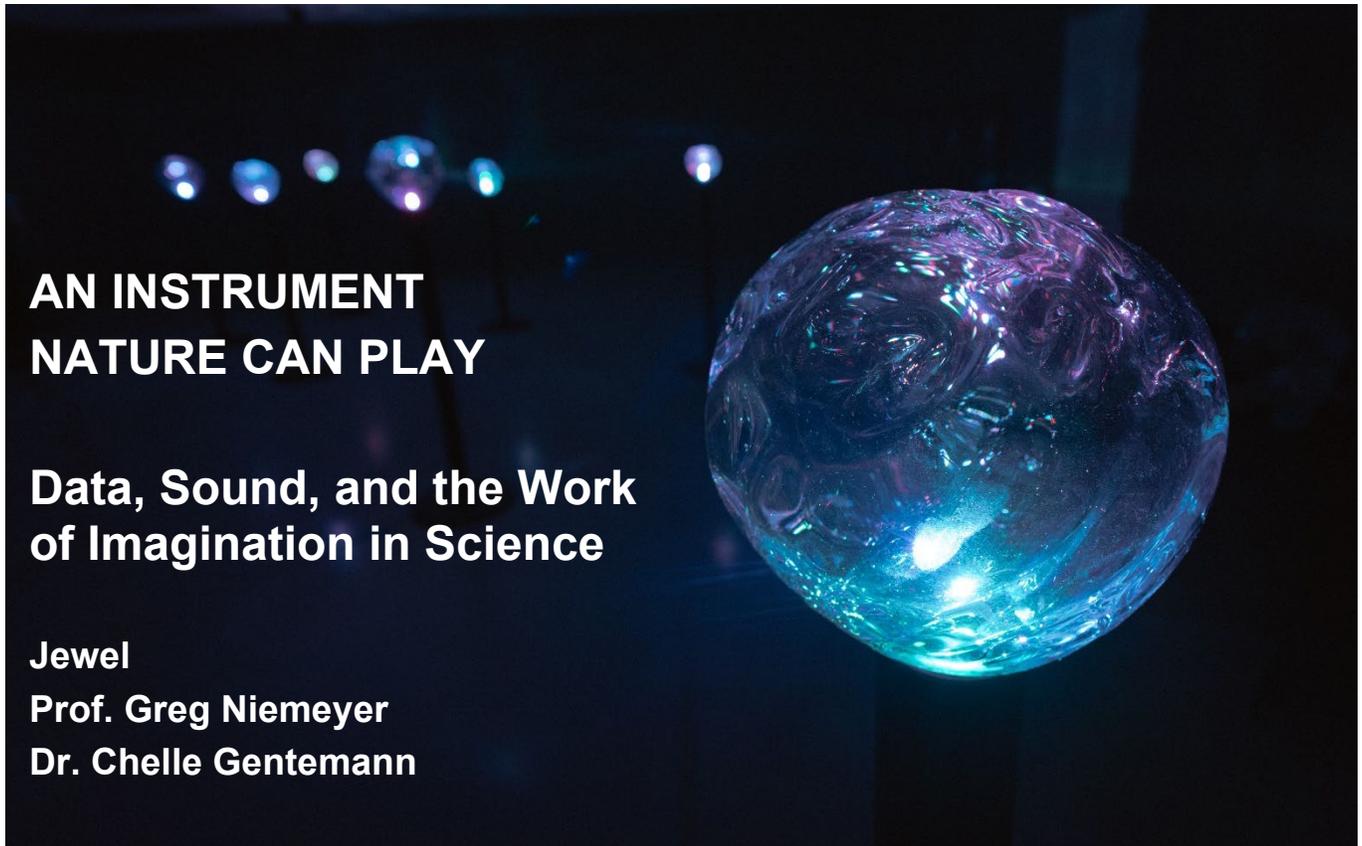


Space Science Week 2026 Keynote Public Lecture



**AN INSTRUMENT
NATURE CAN PLAY**

**Data, Sound, and the Work
of Imagination in Science**

Jewel

Prof. Greg Niemeyer

Dr. Chelle Gentemann

7:00 PM ET

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

LINK COMING SOON

In Person at the National Academy of Sciences Building, in the Kavli Auditorium
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
Online via Livestream

Scientific breakthroughs rarely start with answers. They start when we imagine things we can't yet see. In this keynote, join singer Jewel as she shares her latest work and how her collaboration with open data from NASA, NOAA, USGS, and NSF, made possible through a shared commitment to open science, comes together to show how creativity helps people connect more deeply to their environment by making science more visible, tangible, and participatory.

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Speaker Biographies

Jewel is a 4x Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter, visual artist, actress, New York Times best-selling author, and mental health pioneer. While best-known for her musical talents, Jewel's passion and training in sculpture, drawing, and painting began long before her songwriting career; as a high schooler, she attended Interlochen Arts Academy. Over the years, she has continued creating, working with paint and clay. In spring 2024, Jewel made her debut in the art world at Crystal Bridges Museum of Art in Bentonville, Arkansas with 'The Portal: An Art Experience by Jewel', featuring her own painting and sculpture. The exhibition became one of the museum's top-attended shows of 2024, earning over 15 million media impressions. Throughout her art, Jewel combines her passions for storytelling, experimentation and democratizing mental health. For the past 21 years, Jewel's Inspiring Children Foundation and Jewel Inc. have brought specially-designed mental health programs to at-risk youth and to leading corporations. Jewel created SELLA, a language arts curriculum for schools integrating social and emotional learning and mental health practices, and recently co-founded Innerworld, an innovative virtual mental health platform. Jewel's remarkable journey has taken her from a childhood with no running water on an Alaskan homestead to becoming a multi-platinum recording artist and mental health advocate. She has released 13 studio albums, including her latest release 'Freewheelin' Woman', and recently embarked on a national co-headlining tour with Melissa Etheridge. 'Matriclysm: An Archeology of Connections Lost', premiering concurrently with the Venice Biennale in May, 2026, marks the largest presentation of Jewel's fine art practice to date.



Prof. Greg Niemeyer is a data artist and professor of media innovation in the Department of Art Practice at the University of California, Berkeley. A former director and co-founder of the Berkeley Center for New Media, he has helped build an internationally recognized platform for research and public engagement at the intersections of art, technology, and society. For more than three decades, his work has pioneered data-driven art practices that transform complex systems (climate, water, networks, and AI) into shared, experiential forms of understanding. His impact spans both artistic innovation and cultural inquiry. Prof. Niemeyer develops large-scale installations, computational systems, and participatory environments that make invisible forces tangible—from hydrological cycles and atmospheric data to the dynamics of digital platforms. His exhibitions and commissions have appeared internationally at major museums and cultural institutions, supported by foundations, public agencies, and research partners. Across projects, he advances a singular proposition: that data is not merely information, but a medium for collective reflection and civic imagination. Beyond traditional art forms, Prof. Niemeyer imagines bridges across art, science, and public life. He collaborates with scientists, technologists, and fellow artists, including Dr. Chelle Gentemann and

musician Jewel to explore how open science, environmental systems, and emerging technologies can invite participation. His work hails audiences to see differently: to recognize the circulations that shape daily life, the ecologies that sustain us, and the futures we are actively constructing. His message is both urgent and hopeful: Understanding our systems is the first step toward shaping them. "Use Imagination to change conditions."

Dr. Chelle Gentemann is the Open Science Program Scientist at NASA Headquarters, Office of the Chief Science Data Officer, on assignment from the International Computer Science Institute. For 30 years, she has pioneered satellite technology to understand Earth's oceans and climate, transforming how scientists access, analyze, and share research data through cloud computing and open science practices. Her impact spans both scientific innovation and cultural change. She led NASA's Transform to Open Science (TOPS) initiative and the 2023 Federal Year of Open Science, a landmark collaboration with 17 federal agencies representing \$90 billion in science funding. She was named one of 15 Leading Women in Machine Learning for Earth Observation, received the American Geophysical Union's prestigious Open Science Prize and Falkenberg Award, and has testified before Congress on NASA's mission and impact. Beyond traditional science, Dr. Gentemann bridges disciplines and communities. She collaborates with artist Greg Niemeyer and musician Jewel to explore the intersection of open science, creativity, and human flourishing. Her work embodies a radical belief: science thrives when barriers fall, when many voices contribute, and when discovery becomes a shared human endeavor. Her message is simple and powerful: Science is for everyone.

