

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

Notre-Dame Whispers: a unique audio-immersive experience of the sound and musical history of Notre-Dame de Paris

Paris, April 25, 2024

"Notre-Dame Whispers" is an audio-immersive stroll around the famous cathedral, available starting May 6, 2024 using the [EKKO of Notre-Dame de Paris](#) app., free of charge on your smartphones. Coordinated by researcher Brian FG Katz, research director in acoustics at the Institut Jean Le Rond d'Alembert (Sorbonne University/CNRS) and developed by cultural mediation agency Talkartive, this experience promises a stroll through the sonic and musical history of this icon of Gothic architecture. To present the project, the research team will be present on the forecourt of Notre-Dame de Paris from 6 to 12 of May.



Supported by the PHE research projects (the Past Has Ears) and PHEND (the Past Has Ears at Notre-Dame coordinated by Brian FG Katz), "Notre-Dame Whispers" is designed to raise public awareness of the often overlooked acoustic heritage of historic monuments. This project follows a series of studies to document and virtually reconstruct the unique acoustics of Notre-Dame de Paris. This research project had already showcased this historic monument in 2023 in a podcast miniseries, the radio drama "[À la recherche de Notre-Dame](#)" ([Looking for Notre Dame](#)). By combining auditory immersion and a stroll around this emblematic architectural monument of French heritage, "Notre-Dame Whispers" continues to promote this interdisciplinary academic research and offers new emotions to the public.

At the heart of "Notre-Dame Whispers" is a mobile application, a bridge between past and present, between the real and virtual worlds. The app presents a three-stage experience: it takes you on a stroll around the cathedral, transports you into "hyper-realistic" narratives thanks to immersive listening in binaural sound, and leads you on a quest to piece together the Rose des Souvenirs of Notre-Dame de Paris. The application also enables further exploration with an image gallery, scientific articles and videos, and a glossary of technical terms.

The Notre-Dame Whispers experience will be available free of charge in French, English and Spanish on Google Play and Apple Store, under the name "Ekko of Notre-Dame de Paris", offering the public a unique sonic immersion in the cathedral's acoustic memory.

This audio-immersive stroll would not have been possible without the collaboration of key partners: Sorbonne University, the Ministry of Culture, Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral, the CNRS, the Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris, Institut Jean le Rond d'Alembert (Sorbonne University/CNRS), MSH Lyon Saint-Étienne, Centre André Chastel (Sorbonne University/CNRS/Ministry of Culture), Collegium Musicæ (Sorbonne University), Observatoire des Patrimoines (OPUS, Sorbonne University), Chantier Scientifique Notre-Dame (CNRS/Ministère de la Culture), EU JPI Cultural Heritage project PHE, ANR project PHEND, IReMus research center (Sorbonne University/CNRS/Bibliothèque nationale de France/Ministère de la Culture), Sunmetron, and DIM Pamir.

About Sorbonne University:

Sorbonne University is a multidisciplinary, research-intensive university covering the humanities, health, science and engineering. Anchored in the heart of Paris and with a regional presence, Sorbonne University has 55,000 students, 4,000 teaching and research staff, 3,300 national researchers and 135 laboratories. Alongside its partners in the Sorbonne University Alliance, and via its institutes and multidisciplinary initiatives, it conducts research and educational activities to strengthen its contribution to the challenges of three major transitions: a global approach to health (One Health), resources for a sustainable planet (One Earth), and changing societies, languages and cultures (One Humanity). Sorbonne University is also a member of Alliance 4EU+, an innovative model for European universities that develops strategic international partnerships and promotes the openness of its community to the rest of the world. <https://www.sorbonne-universite.fr/en>

About Talkartive:

Talkartive is a multimedia agency that combines cultural mediation and new spatialized audio technologies. Their expertise transforms simple guided tours into sensory experiences that leave a lasting impression on audiences. Talkartive works closely with museums, heritage sites and institutions to create audio mediation tools and tour itineraries that adapt to the technological uses of society. From conception to evaluation, they deliver innovative, customized solutions that are easy to deploy. Based in Paris and Barcelona, this multicultural team is committed to enriching the understanding and appreciation of heritage worldwide. Using the senses as vectors of emotion, the projects they champion invite all audiences to explore, feel and discover art and culture without complex. <https://talkartive.com/en/the-experience-2/>

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