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Make Time for the Stars

Fitting Astronomy into Your Busy Life

Antony Cooke

Springer

Antony Cooke
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This book is dedicated to my mother, Margot Cooke, with love and appreciation for the encouragement, freedom, and opportunities she provided so that I could make the most of everything meaningful to me.

About the Author

It has often been said that music and astronomy go hand in hand. **Antony Cooke's** passion for both fields were clear very early in his life, but music ultimately would claim his career. A cellist of international renown, Cooke has been one of the leading players in the Hollywood recording industry for many years, having been Associate Professor of Cello at Northwestern University in Chicago until 1984. A US citizen but born in Australia and educated in London, he received artist diplomas from the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music. During this time he was a recipient of numerous prizes and awards, including the Gold Medal at the London Music Festival. Becoming England's youngest principal cellist (London Mozart Players), his career grew as international soloist, solo recording artist, university professor, and published composer, including for prime time television.

The dual nature of Cooke's interests continued, astronomy remaining the counterbalance in his life. Always looking for ways to improve his experience at the eyepiece, he has constructed many telescopes over the years, with increasing sizes being the hallmark of his often quirky designs. With limited time becoming an increasing factor, and with simplicity in mind, Cooke made the conscious choice not to be a slave to the new directions of mainstream amateur astronomy. Blending some of the best that modern technology has to offer with the careful choice of portable equipment, Cooke's somewhat unorthodox approach, developed over the course of his lifetime, has proved to be his best solution.

Make Time for the Stars is Antony Cooke's third book on astronomy, preceded by *Visual Astronomy in the Suburbs* (Springer 2003) and *Visual Astronomy under Dark Skies* (Springer 2005).

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