THE MUSIC OF THE PRIMES

Friday December 2, 2016
12:00-12:50 in D634

Documentary written and presented
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From the Greeks to Gauss

Prime numbers are the atoms of arithmetic - the hydrogen and oxygen of the world of numbers. Despite their fundamental importance to mathematics, they represent one of the most tantalising enigmas in the pursuit of human knowledge.

This first episode details the early history of prime number theory, beginning with discoveries that took place in the Hellenistic world.
It illustrates how the torch of Euclid's work passed to 18th- and 19th-century Europeans, exploring Carl Friedrich Gauss' groundbreaking work in the prediction of prime numbers and introducing Bernhard Riemann's revolutionary zeta function.

There will be snacks and refreshments.
Everyone is welcome!