

# For budding Cu3a Astronomers

The Lyrids meteor shower is set to **peak on 22-23 April**

Observe after **midnight** to maximise your chances of catching a streak of light burn through the sky.



## Where to look:

The meteors appear to emanate from just inside the constellation of Hercules, near bright star Vega in Lyra (see chart above).

From your garden look northeast for Vega.

You would need to look North East

Wikipedia

**Vega** is the brightest [star](#) in the northern [constellation](#) of [Lyra](#). It has the [Bayer designation](#)  **$\alpha$  Lyrae**, which is [Latinised](#) to **Alpha Lyrae** and abbreviated **Alpha Lyr** or  **$\alpha$  Lyr**. This star is [relatively close](#) at only 25 [light-years](#) (7.7 [parsecs](#)) from the [Sun](#), and one of the most luminous stars in the [Sun's neighborhood](#), being intrinsically brighter than any star nearer to the sun. It is the [fifth-brightest star](#) in the [night sky](#), and the second-brightest star in the [northern celestial hemisphere](#), after [Arcturus](#).

## What to expect:

Around 10 meteors per hour under dark skies, you'll see bright, fast streaks that often leave glowing trails. Plus, there's only a thin crescent Moon, so there'll be minimal interference from any bright glare.


## What you need:

Warm clothing and **patience** is all you really need! And no special equipment required; your eyes take in a far greater amount of sky than binoculars or telescopes, allowing you to see more meteors!

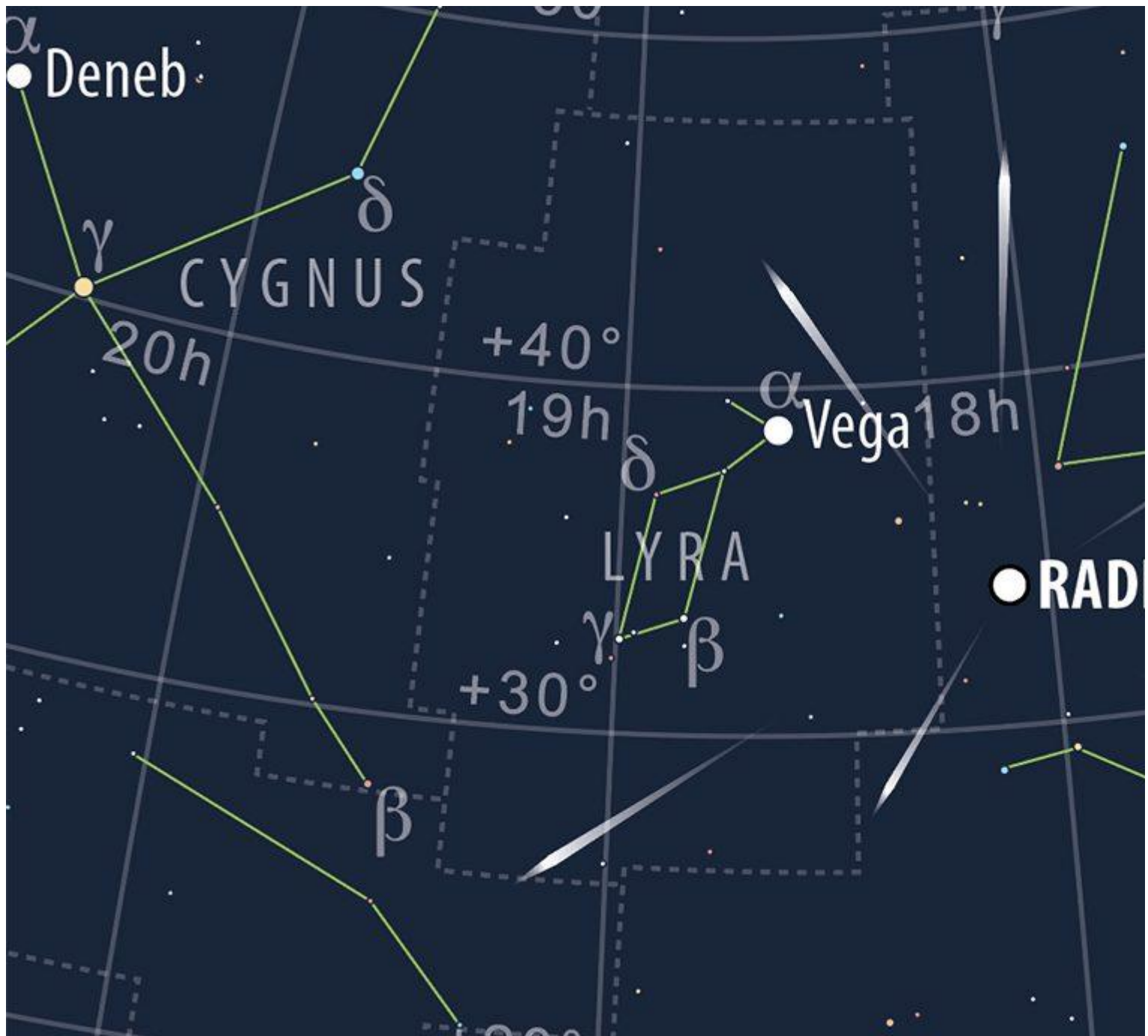
## Origin:

Lyrids are minute pieces of debris left by Comet C/1861 G1 (Thatcher). They enter our atmosphere at about 48 kilometres per second, burning up to create the appearance of 'shooting stars'.

## New to meteor watching?

Then start with our free handy *How to observe meteor showers* guide 

[METEOR OBSERVING GUIDE](#)



**Clouded out?**

Check our *Meteor shower calendar* for the next opportunity – the Eta Aquarids, originating from Comet 1P/Halley, peak 6/7 May.

[METEOR SHOWER CALENDAR](#)