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The Passion of Science. The Logic of Art.

Brief Event Description

Dark Matter presents *Orbit*

Experience the beauty of the cosmos with an incredible journey into space. Astronomer Bob Riddle will guide you through the solar system and beyond while original electro-acoustic music gives you the feeling of weightlessness. Composers Daniel Eichenbaum and Richard Johnson collaborate with performers Rebecca Ashe and Cheryl Melfi to create live music under the Gottlieb Planetarium's sixty-foot dome. Presented in full-screen projection with surround-sound, Dark Matter is an audio-visual treat you won't soon forget. Look Up.

About Dark Matter

Dark Matter seeks to inspire and educate its audiences. Through music, visual projection, and interactive lecture/discussion, Dark Matter addresses the interrelationships between science and the arts along with the impact of technology on society. This inter-disciplinary approach helps audiences understand the “passion” of science and the “logic” of art. The goal is to show how science and the arts function together in a mutually beneficial relationship.

In the planetarium, the seats recline to allow the audience a view of the overhead dome. The audience looks neither down nor out as in a traditional theater. Instead, they look up to see panoramas of the night sky. Looking upward is an inherently optimistic vantage point and Dark Matter uses that view to show how incredible our world is. There is a world of possibilities out there and Dark Matter encourages its audience to Look Up.

Artist Information

Rebecca Ashe, Flutist

Dr. Rebecca Ashe is a performing artist and representative for Trevor James flutes who has performed recitals throughout North America and Europe. A new music performer and collaborator, she has partnered with leading contemporary composers and has performed at new music festivals including SPARK, SEAMUS and the Electroacoustic Juke Joint. In 2010, she was the featured performing artist at Electronic Music Midwest. She has won local grants and national awards and will soon be releasing her debut CD.

(more)

Daniel Eichenbaum, Curator and Composer

Composer Daniel Eichenbaum's music has been performed and published throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Besides composing, he is a devoted teacher, working with students of all ages from the United States and abroad. From 2005-2007, he was Instructor of Music at Mahidol University in Thailand and also taught master classes in Myanmar. Mr. Eichenbaum received an Inspiration Grant from the Metropolitan Arts Council of Kansas City to help fund his work on Dark Matter, which combines his love for music, science, and outer space.

Richard Johnson, Composer

Richard is a Doctoral Candidate in Music Composition at the University of Missouri - Kansas City. He has recently served as an adjunct there in the composition department as well as at community colleges in the Kansas City area, where he teaches topics in World Music and Audio Engineering. Richard is currently working on a series of pieces for electronics and soloist exploring quests for spiritual harmony in human history, while at the same time composing scores for local animation and video games.

Cheryl Melfi, Clarinetist

Clarinetist Dr. Cheryl Melfi is a founding member of Quadrivium, a mixed chamber ensemble specializing in electroacoustic music. She has performed throughout the United States and Asia, and has been a featured artist at music festivals and clinics including Music From Greer, the University of Minnesota's Third Annual New Music Festival, UMKC's Summer Composition Workshop, the Singapore Bandmasters' Workshop, the Asian Symphonic Band Competition, Electroacoustic Juke Joint, and more. She is not an astronomer but does spend more than enough time with her head in the clouds.

Bob Riddle, Astronomer

Bob Riddle is adjunct faculty at Longview Community College where he teaches Astronomy online and in the classroom. Bob writes Scope on the Skies, a monthly feature of Science Scope Magazine, a National Science Teacher Association publication. When not teaching or researching for his monthly column and his web site Bob spends his time waiting for the International Space Station to fly over.

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