José Francisco Salgado is an astronomer, experimental photographer, and visual artist who uses art as a vehicle to communicate science. He is also an award-winning director and producer, an astronomy professor, and executive director of KV 265, a non-profit organization with the mission of communicating science.

He’s also one of the few astronomers that’s been nominated for an Emmy Award.

Now Salgado is teaming up with Tom Bailey (of the Thompson Twins) to form the Bailey-Salgado Project, an audiovisual ensemble started in 2010 with the goal of communicating science through art and inspiring audiences to learn more about Earth and the Universe.

The duo seeks to combine Bailey’s music with Salgado’s high dynamic range (HDR) imaging, time-lapse, infrared, fisheye, and stereoscopic photography.

Their first project, Sidereal Motion, a film about the night sky as seen from five
observatories around the world, is scheduled to open at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago on May 19. The film was shot over 15 nights and boasts a cast of billions of stars.

Salgado, who is well-known for his photography and for setting his works to music, is the director and producer of several award-winning films that are unique in their breath-taking imagery and inspirational orchestral suites.

His works are often accompanied by world-renowned orchestras, including the Boston Pops, the National Symphony Orchestra, and the Czech National Symphony Orchestra. Perhaps best known are two of Salgado’s award-winning astronomy films, Gustav Holst’s The Planets, and Astronomical Pictures at an Exhibition.

Sidereal Motion opens May 19th at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago.