

## **GAMAC opens with Science, Symphony & Starr Wars**

ANDERSON - The Greater Anderson Musical Arts Consortium (GAMAC) Orchestra under the direction of R. Alexander Spainhour III along with a women's chorus from the GAMAC Chorale, will open GAMAC's 25th Anniversary Season with Science & Symphony: The Planets on Oct. 9, at 7:30 p.m. at The Rainey Fine Arts Center at Anderson University. Featuring Gustav Holst's groundbreaking masterpiece The Planets accompanied by a spectacular film produced by Emmy Award nominated astronomer and visual artist, Dr. Jose Francisco Salgado.

English composer Gustav Holst's The Planets, Op. 32, is a seven-movement orchestral suite written between 1914 and 1916. Each movement of the suite is named after a planet of the solar system and its corresponding astrological character as defined by Holst. GAMAC's performance of this masterpiece will combine science and music with Holst's score and spectacular film footage of the solar system from NASA and the European Space Agency as well as historical illustrations. Taking audiences on a journey through outer space to each planet, the sun and beyond, this Science & Symphony film is renowned for its finely tuned choreography with the music which creates a stunning artistic experience. As film creator Dr. Jose Francisco Salgado explains, "The film is not intended to be seen as a documentary, but rather as an art piece that aims to inspire and encourage audiences to learn more about our solar system and the universe. It serves as a synthesis of what humans have achieved as space explorers."

This program is made by special arrangement with KV 265, a nonprofit organization with a mission to communicate science through art to communities throughout the United States and abroad. Under Dr. Salgado's leadership as executive director, the organization seeks to heighten appreciation and understanding of visual art, music, science and technology while inspiring deeper engagement in the arts through multimedia concerts, lectures and educational workshops. KV 265's Science & Symphony films have been presented in more than 100 performances reaching 250,000 people worldwide.

In keeping with the evening's theme, GAMAC Orchestra conductor, Alex Spainhour has paired Holst's work with John Williams' iconic Star Wars Suite. Featuring music from the beloved films, audiences are sure to recognize Darth Vader's Theme, Princess Leia's Theme and Yoda's Theme along with other highlights from the film scores. "With Star Wars VII - The Force Awakens" opening in theaters in December, we thought this would

be the perfect time to celebrate these wonderful characters in concert," said Spainhour. "This entire performance is perfect for families and a chance to let the imagination soar," he said.

To purchase tickets to Science & Symphony: The Planets please call the GAMAC office at 864. 231-6147. Prices are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Children in grades 1-12 are eligible to receive a complimentary ticket to the performance thanks to a generous grant from Duke Energy Foundation. Please indicate your child's grade level at the time of purchase. Complimentary tickets for children are limited to 350 total tickets, so parents are encouraged to call soon. Seating is by general admission. While tickets will be sold at the door, advance reservations are advised. This program is made possible with generous sponsorship from The Duke Energy Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Gurley, Ms. Margaret C. Herndon, Mr. and Mrs. John Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rainey. Additional support is provided in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives support in part from the National Endowment for the Arts.