

To the civic and beyond

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Dr. Jose Salgado was in third grade, he stumbled upon his “eureka moment.” It was a book his father owned about the first men landing on the moon and he quickly became fascinated.

“I was only in third grade, but that’s when I decided, ‘You know what, that is what I want to do. I want to become an astronomer,’” Salgado said.

And become one he did.

Now, 16 years after earning his doctorate in astronomy at the University of Michigan, Salgado is hoping that perhaps he could bring that eureka moment to a whole new generation of children to instill in them a passion like the one within himself.

On Wednesday, Salgado will be teaming up with the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra to bring his Symphony and Science educational concert to La Porte. Held at the Civic Auditorium, the concert will be performed at three separate times during the day and will accommodate more than 5,000 students and teachers.

Salgado, who once was on staff at the Adler Planetarium, is also a visual artist who creates science films which are played in harmony with the live music performed by an orchestra to create both an educational and entertaining experience.

“It’s my turn to try to inspire students and maybe the concert is the thing that will make them choose a particular career and not only choose a career, but become passionate about something,” Salgado said, adding that maybe the students will find a passion in the universe and pursue astronomy or find inspiration in the music and pick up an instrument.

“It’s very important to inspire young students to pursue something that they’re passionate about and maybe this will be the thing that will open their eyes and give them an idea on what to pursue,” Salgado said.

Being able to contribute to that eureka moment in a child’s life is an important mission to Salgado, who is the executive director and co-founder of KV 265, a non-profit organization which seeks to teach science through the arts and puts on the Symphony and Science concerts across the nation and beyond.

“So many arts programs have been cut from school curriculum so this is one small way in compensating

for that,” Salgado said. “In science education, unfortunately, the U.S. is lacking to other countries in the world. We’re trying to make a contribution and hopefully it will help students.”

The Symphony and Science project launched originally in 2006 as a collaboration between Adler Planetarium and the Chicago Sinfonietta before Salgado expanded the project under KV 265 where it now has spanned more than 50 cities in 15 countries and reached more than 250,000 people.

Philip Bauman, the LPCSO music director, met Salgado previously when the Northwest Indiana Symphony performed during one of Salgado’s science films. Due to the positive response, Bauman quickly began speaking with Salgado about bringing the program to the LCSO.

“The response from the students that attended the education concert was tremendous. The kids were very enraptured with the films that we were showing. Also, Dr. Salgado is a very engaging personality. He can relate to various age groups very well,” Bauman said.

The three separate performances will take place at 9:30 and 11:10 a.m., and 12:45 p.m. at the Civic Auditorium on Wednesday.

Tickets can be ordered online at LCSO.net or by calling (219) 362-9020. Admission is free for students.

Bauman stated the public is encouraged to attend the performances with the 12:45 p.m. show recommended for the public, but welcoming them to any showtime stating that seats in the balcony will be open.

Tickets cost \$1.