

## Allentown Band 'The Universe at an Exhibition'

Speaking of things extraterrestrial, one might recall how the Allentown Symphony Orchestra delighted audiences in April 2012 with a dramatic performance of Gustav Holst's "The Planets." The program was accompanied by high definition video projections featuring awe-inspiring planetary images, computer-generated animations and science visualizations.

On Wednesday, Nov. 9 at Symphony Hall, the creator of those fabulous images, astronomer and video artist Jose Francisco Salgado, will be back in town for another out-of-this-world show, this time teaming up with the Allentown Band. "The Universe at an Exhibition" will feature more of Salgado's starting imagery, this time accompanying a concert band version of Mussorgsky's mighty "Pictures at an Exhibition."

Premiered by the New York Wind Symphony in December 2015 to high acclaim, Salgado's new spectacle coordinates images of galaxies, planets, black holes, and stars to Ravel's famous orchestral transcription of Mussorgsky's piano score. The adaptation to concert band is by Paul Lavender, a longtime associate of composer John Williams.

The 45-minute-long program, with introductory remarks by Salgado on the video imagery and by Allentown Band director Ron Demkee on the music, is part of the band's Educational Youth Outreach Concert series. It will be presented at 10 a.m. Wednesday for area elementary and middle school students, and repeated at noon for the public. A limited number of tickets (500) are available for the public performance.

"It is by no means just a kids' concert. It will be a great program for adults as well as kids," Demkee says. "I sort of based the idea of a mid-day performance on the success of the Bach at Noon series. This will be the first time we're repeating one of our Youth Concerts and opening it to the public."

It will also be the most extensive use of video imagery by the Allentown Band. The program is one of nearly a dozen space-themed concerts conceived by Salgado, an Emmy-nominated science communicator, photographer and visual artist who creates multimedia works that communicate science in engaging ways. As a co-founder of KV 265, he collaborates with symphony orchestras, chamber musicians and composers to present films that provoke curiosity and a sense of wonder about the Earth and the universe.

•**"The Universe at an Exhibition,"** noon Wednesday, Miller Symphony Hall, 23 N. Sixth St., Allentown. Tickets: \$10. [www.allentownband.com](http://www.allentownband.com)