

# ADLER)75

AMERICA'S FIRST PLANETARIUM

Contact: Molly O'Connell  
312-322-0524  
moconnell@adlerplanetarium.org

Amy McGee  
312-542-2424  
amcgee@adlerplanetarium.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JUNE 8, 2005**

## **ADLER PLANETARIUM PRESENTS THE KRONOS QUARTET PERFORMING TERRY RILEY'S "SUN RINGS" ON JUNE 29**

**Grammy Award-Winning Kronos Quartet Performs the Sounds of the Solar System**

CHICAGO – The Adler Planetarium will present the Grammy Award-winning Kronos Quartet in an out-of-this-world performance at the Harris Theater at Millennium Park on June 29 at 7:30 pm. *Sun Rings*, commissioned for the Kronos Quartet by NASA and others uses recordings and images of outer space to explore the relationship between humans and the cosmos.

The sounds of the solar system were captured as signals by NASA spacecraft including the Voyagers, Galileo and Cassini, transmitted to earth, and converted into sound by University of Iowa astrophysicist Donald Gurnett. NASA then commissioned the Kronos Quartet and composer Terry Riley to turn these space sounds into a musical performance. *Sun Rings*, an evening-length work in ten movements, is a multimedia production featuring a choir and both sounds and images from space.

"The Adler Planetarium is thrilled to bring the Kronos Quartet to Chicago," said Adler President Paul H. Knappenberger Jr., PhD. "*Sun Rings* is a unique opportunity for Chicagoans to experience astronomy in an entirely new way."

*Sun Rings* by the Kronos Quartet is presented by the Adler as part of the Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena Conference (INSAP) held at the Planetarium June 26-July 1, 2005. The INSAP international conference is offered as part of the Adler Planetarium's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

"*Sun Rings* by the Kronos Quartet is a fantastic example of astronomy's inspiration on contemporary arts," said Dr. Marvin Bolt, Adler Planetarium's Director of History and a member of INSAP's local organizing committee. "This amazing concert is only one of the public events presented as part of the INSAP conference, including poetry readings and innovative planetarium shows."

### **SUN RINGS**

**Wednesday, June 29, 7:30 pm**

**Performers: Kronos Quartet**

**New Classic Singers; Lee R. Kesselman, Director**

**Location: Harris Theater at Millennium Park, 205 East Randolph Drive**

**Tickets: \$25.00 – \$40.00. To order tickets call the Harris Theater at 312-334-7777 or order online at [www.madtchi.com](http://www.madtchi.com)**

(more)

**KRONOS QUARTET**  
**PAGE TWO**

This event, part of the Adler's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, is generously supported by the McCormick Tribune Foundation.

INSAP conferences explore the rich and diverse ways in which people of the past and present incorporate astronomical events into literary, visual, and performance arts. INSAP provides a mechanism for a broad sampling of artists, writers, musicians, historians, philosophers, scientists, and others to talk about the diversity of astronomical inspiration. For more information and a list of public events visit [adlerplanetarium.org/insap/](http://adlerplanetarium.org/insap/).

For more than 30 years, the Kronos Quartet—David Harrington and John Sherba (violins), Hank Dutt (viola) and Jennifer Culp (cello)—has pursued a singular artistic vision, combining a spirit of fearless exploration with a commitment to expanding the range and context of the string quartet. In the process, Kronos has become one of the most celebrated and influential ensembles of our time. Please note Jennifer Culp is taking a leave of absence from the Kronos Quartet due to a routine medical condition. Jeffrey Zeigler will join Kronos as guest cellist beginning in June. In this performance Kronos performs with the New Classic Singers under the direction of Lee R. Kesselman. The New Classic Singers has just completed its 23rd season as a professional choral ensemble in residence McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Chicago business leader Max Adler founded the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum—America's First Planetarium—in 1930. Celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2005, the Adler promotes leading-edge research in astronomy and its fascinating history. The museum is home to one of the world's most important antique instrument collections and is the only museum in the world with two full-size planetarium theaters, including the world's first StarRider Theater. The Adler is also a recognized leader in science education, with a focus on inspiring young people, particularly women and minorities, to pursue careers in science.

On May 12, 2005, the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum marks its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by launching a year of celebration and a new direction for the future. A new mission will expand the museum's current focus on astronomy to celebrate human space exploration and America's space heroes. Through this new vision, the Adler will help inspire the next generation of explorers. Captain James A. Lovell, veteran of four Gemini and Apollo missions including Apollo 13 serves as Honorary Chairman of the Adler's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The Adler Planetarium is located at 1300 South Lake Shore Drive in Chicago and is open every day except for Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. For more information, call 312.922.STAR, or visit [www.adlerplanetarium.org](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org)

###