

PRESS RELEASE
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**ART AND SCIENCE MAKE BEAUTIFUL CLASSICAL
MUSIC TOGETHER INSPIRED BY GLAST MISSION**

**New Multimedia Musical Works Celebrating The GLAST Mission
Created By The Minds Behind www.classicalarchives.com**

New York, NY – Talk about “cosmic” inspiration. Renowned composer **Nolan Gasser’s** newest composition found its inspiration in the unlikeliest of places: the recent liftoff of **GLAST**, one of the largest space telescopes launched into orbit since the Hubble. Gasser’s *GLAST Prelude for Brass Quintet*, created specifically for the mission, was played at the launch party in Florida. It can be seen on NASA’s site at <http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/vis/a010000/a010200/a010251/index.html>.

The *GLAST Prelude* is itself only a prelude to a large-scale multimedia Symphony composed by Gasser that will illustrate (via music, narration, and film) the 13.7 billion year history of the Universe – from the Big Bang to the emergence of intelligent life on Earth. That work, *Cosmic Reflections*, will have its premiere at the Kennedy Center For The Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2009 as part of a major symposium where the first-year results of the GLAST mission will be presented.

The multimedia compositions were conceived in concert with Stanford’s Dr. Peter Michelson, GLAST’s Principal Investigator and Pierre Schwob, CEO and founder of www.classicalarchives.com. Finding innovative ways to extend the appeal and audience of classical works is a passion of both Schwob and Gasser, who is the Classical Archives Artistic Director. The two are also set to re-launch the web’s premier classical music destination when www.classicalarchives.com goes live this fall.

The GLAST works, and multimedia video, offer a unique way to bring science to the public. As Gasser puts it, “The connection between art and science is an intrinsic part of the human experience – as both aim to reflect and better understand the Universe around us. That cutting-edge science can provide inspiration to contemporary art is clearly evidenced here in the *GLAST Prelude*, and will soon inspire a second and larger composition to be written in celebration of GLAST, *Cosmic Reflection*.”

Schwob notes, “We hope these multimedia works will not only inspire people’s understanding and thirst for science, but also their love of classical music and its undeniable power. This is also an effort to communicate to our government, the press, and the public the needs and extraordinary achievements of our scientists.”

The ambitious and compelling 10-minute video of the *GLAST Prelude* (<http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/vis/a010000/a010200/a010251/index.html>) highlights the mission and, among other things, a brief history of astronomy, a brief tour of the electromagnetic spectrum, and a celebration of the multi-national cooperation of GLAST. The animation in the video was created with the help of the Goddard Flight Center’s Television and Multimedia Group. The music was performed by the world-famous American Brass Quintet.

Schwob notes that just as space missions are supreme acts of teamwork, these multimedia works are true collaborations. “Musicians and scientists came together to create the *GLAST Prelude* and we look forward to an even more exciting presentation with *Cosmic Reflections*. Depicting the history of the universe in just about 40 minutes is an interesting challenge!” The narration is being co-written by Schwob and noted scientist and author Dr. Lawrence Krauss.

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