POPS FOUR

We Have Liftoff!

The Rocket City in Space
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2020 • 7:30 p.m. • MARK C. SMITH CONCERT HALL, VON BRAUN CENTER
Huntsville Symphony Orchestra • C. DAVID RAGSDALE, Guest Conductor • GREGORY VAJDA, Music Director

One of the nation’s major aerospace hubs, Huntsville—the “Rocket City”—has been heavily invested in the industry since Operation Paperclip brought more than 1,600 German scientists to the United States between 1945 and 1959. The Army Ballistic Missile Agency arrived at Redstone Arsenal in 1956, and Eisenhower opened NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in 1960 with Dr. Wernher von Braun as Director. The Redstone and Saturn rockets, the “Moon Buggy” (Lunar Roving Vehicle), Skylab, the Space Shuttle Program, and the Hubble Space Telescope are just a few of the many projects led or assisted by Huntsville.

Tonight’s concert celebrates our community’s vital contributions to rocketry and space exploration, at the most opportune of celestial conjunctions: July 2019 marked the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon-landing mission, and 2020 brings the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, America’s leading aerospace museum and Alabama’s largest tourist attraction.

S3, Inc. Pops Series

Concert Sponsors:

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Guest Conductor Sponsor:
LORETTA SPENCER
musical selections from
2001: A Space Odyssey

Richard Strauss
Fanfare from Thus Spake Zarathustra, op. 30

Johann Strauss, Jr.
On the Beautiful Blue Danube, op. 314

Gustav Holst
from The Planets, op. 32
Mars, the Bringer of War
Venus, the Bringer of Peace
Mercury, the Winged Messenger
Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity

INTERMISSION

Mason Bates
Mothership (2010, commissioned by the YouTube Symphony)

John Williams
Excerpts from Close Encounters of the Third Kind

Alexander Courage
Dennis McCarthy
Jay Chattaway
Jerry Goldsmith
arr. C. Custer

Bill Conti
End Title from The Right Stuff

James Horner
Highlights from Apollo 13
arr. J. Moss

Guest Conductor

Dr. C. David Ragsdale
• Professor and Chairman of the Department of Music, University of Alabama in Huntsville
• Conducting staff, Huntsville Youth Orchestra, Tennessee Valley Music Festival
• Orchestral appearances with Lee Greenwood, Indigo Girls, Wynonna Judd, Ivan Rutherford, and Ruben Studdard
• Recent university conducting engagements at Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, University of Southern Mississippi, University of Georgia