

- [Home](#)
- [Blog » »](#)
- [Projects » »](#)
- [Chuck Stuff » »](#)
- [Contact](#)

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[Home](#) > [Blog](#) > Telescopes Precede Kronos Quartet on March 1

## Blog

### Telescopes Precede Kronos Quartet on March 1

Posted by admin on January 30, 2014



Plasma waves detected by the Voyager spacecraft have inspired a pairing of the sounds of space and the live music of the Kronos Quartet. [Michiana Astronomical Society Inc.](#) (MAS) is partnering with the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at Notre Dame for the Kronos Quartet production of [Sun Rings](#) on Saturday, March 1, 2014. Before and after the 7:30 p.m. concert, MAS members will set up telescopes outside DeBartolo to target celestial highlights like Jupiter and its Galilean moons. Come see for yourself the visible wavelengths from a grand denizen of the solar system before heading into the theater to hear the sound extracted from plasma waves detected by the Voyager.

Dominating the night sky, Jupiter immediately captures your imagination. Jupiter's four major moons appear like beads of a necklace strung out in a line, silently shifting positions relative to the giant planet from night to night. It's one of the sights recorded by Galileo that changed the world. On March 1, look for moons Europa, Ganymede, and Io on one side of Jupiter, and Callisto alone on the other side. Horizontal belts visible on the surface of Jupiter reveal a turbulent atmosphere at odds with itself.

The encounter with Jupiter was one of the great breakthroughs by the Voyager spacecraft, which is integral to the Sun Rings performance. The NASA Art Program contacted Kronos Quartet to incorporate the characteristics of the plasma — hot gas stripped of its constituent electrically charged particles that propagate through space in waves — into a stirring musical and visual interpretation. Details of the project are at [http://kronosquartet.org/projects/detail/sun\\_rings](http://kronosquartet.org/projects/detail/sun_rings).



The Michiana Astronomical Society is the region's leading organization in astronomy education and public outreach. [Celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2014](#), MAS members will also be in the south lobby of Leighton Hall to field questions about amateur astronomy, telescopes, and stargazing opportunities in our community.

As mentioned, prior to Sun Rings, telescopes will be outside to seek Jupiter in the evening twilight. After the performance, when darkness has settled in, notice how Ganymede and Io have clearly moved in orbit around Jupiter. Enjoy other deep sky targets, too, like the Beehive Cluster or the uncountable stars of the Milky Way. On March 1, make your observations of the sky a set of celestial bookends for a musical treat at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Tickets can be purchased online at <http://performingarts.nd.edu/calendar/view.aspx?id=4108>. MAS members and their respective guest can each receive a reduced rate by first submitting the offer code that was emailed to dues-paying members. If you did not receive the offer code, or if you want to staff an MAS table or telescope at the DeBartolo Center that evening, please contact Chuck Bueter at [bueter\(AT\)nightwise.org](mailto:bueter(AT)nightwise.org). Thank you.

[« Previous](#)

[Next »](#)

▼ 2014

- ▶ October
- ▶ September
- ▶ August
- ▶ July
- ▶ May
- ▶ April

▶ March

▶ February

▼ January

[Telescopes Precede Kronos Quartet on March 1](#)

[Michiana Astronomy 2014](#)

[Bargmeyer Reflects on Michiana Astronomy](#)

[Advocating for Dark Sky](#)

▶ 2013

▶ 2012

## Tags



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