

# Quantum Illuminations

*A light-filled journey into the quantum realm*



X-ray: NASA/CXC; Infrared: ESA/Webb, NASA & CSA, P. Zeidler, E.Sabbi, A. Nota, M. Zamani; Image Processing: NASA/CXC/SAO/L. Frattare and K. Arcand

April 20, 2026 | 7:00 p.m.  
The Den Theatre

Hosted by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in partnership with

The Grainger College of Engineering (GCOE)  
The Department of Physics  
The Department of Music  
The Department of English  
The College of Fine and Applied Arts  
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at Illinois  
Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology  
Illinois Quantum Information Science and Technology Center  
Richard Blanco

*In loving memory of physicist Anthony Leggett and  
theater maker Latrelle Bright*

## **PROGRAM**

### **Luminous Opening**

**10 minutes**

Scripted by Richard Blanco and Smitha Vishveshwara  
Performed by Armand Beaudoin, Lauren Laws, Aarya Mehta,  
Soma Sarathy, Sophia Urban, Rebecca Wiltfong, Jagadeesh Yedetore

### **Poetic Musings**

**12 minutes**

National Poet Richard Blanco

### **Quantum Voices**

**20 minutes**

Scripted by Gina Lorenz  
Performed by Armand Beaudoin (bass), Mari Cieszynski (student),  
Amy Hassinger (vocalist and instrumentalist), Paul Kwiat  
(physicist and dancer), Lauren Laws (light orb), Sarah Scott (dancer)

Musical selections include popular tunes and original compositions by  
Armand Beaudoin, Amy Hassinger, Jake Metz

### **Quantum Rhapsodies**

**45 minutes**

Scripted by Smitha Vishveshwara  
Music performed by the Jupiter String Quartet

Music selections across centuries and geographical space, including  
the premiere of “Whirling into Resonance” by Stephen Taylor

Narrated by Matthias Grosse Perdekamp, Philip Phillips,  
Smitha Vishveshwara

Visuals by Illumination Team, Beckman Team, Nic Morse, students from  
PHYS 498 ART

### **Closing**

**10 minutes**

*No intermission*

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Directors	Smitha Vishveshwara & Gina Lorenz
Production Manager	Rebecca Wiltfong
Event Planner	Canaan Daniels
Emcee	Aarya Mehta
Staging Guide	Sophia Urban
Technical Director & Sound Designer	Jake Metz
Visuals	Ellie Curshellas Aarya Mehta Jason Miles Soma Sarathy

We extend our heartfelt gratitude

To Rashid Bashir, Dean of GCOE, for his generosity, celebration of discovery, and steadfast support of the art-science-engineering community.

And to fellow partners of our Quantum Illuminations journey

Janice Benner  
Steve Drake  
Chloe Firetto-Toomey  
Angela Graham  
Jeff Moore  
Cheryl Sabas  
Siv Schwink  
Samuel Smith  
Stephanie Swearingen  
GCOE Marketing and Communications Team



Photo credit modified from: <https://www.livescience.com/physics-mathematics/particle-physics/physicists-discover-spooky-action-at-a-distance-within-individual-protons>

Join us for an immersive evening that entangles the wonders of quantum science and artistic expression. We open with National Poet-Engineer Richard Blanco reading his light-filled poetry.

In *Quantum Voices*, join a student of quantum science in an adventure of sound and light. Find yourself immersed within the voices of those who feel the meaning and implications of some of the most tantalizing concepts of modern physics.

In *Quantum Rhapsodies*, steep yourself in quantum mysteries from subatomic to galactic scales. Shared through poetic narrative, melodic quartet movements, and lush visuals, this performance weaves through reflections on light, stellar furnaces birthing elements, quantum matter here on our precious Earth, and enigmas of the human mind.

Our evening offering, *Quantum Illuminations*, is a communal celebration of the quantum realm in all its splendor, of what makes us who we are, and of our place in the universe.

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Quantum Illuminations is brought to you by Illinois' CASCaDe, a Collective for Art-Science, Creativity and Discovery, etc. CASCaDe is comprised of university students, faculty, and staff, and groups from diverse walks of life. Our approaches vary and involve community building, research, and education. We seek to steep ourselves in contemplation and wonder, to embrace empathy, and to grow connections with Nature and fellow explorers.



For full program and bios



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