



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anne Farrow, 860-695-6296, afarrow@hplct.org

ArtWalk Photographs of Nature to Link with HSO Performance

Hartford, Connecticut (April 1, 2013) — The ArtWalk at Hartford Public Library’s Downtown Branch will open a new show of photographs on April 12, when it presents “LIFE: A Journey Through Time – A Photographic Exhibition by Frans Lanting.” The exhibition is presented in partnership with Hartford Symphony Orchestra, and a special opening reception with music will be held from 6 – 8 p.m. on that same day.

These photographs by world-renowned nature photographer Frans Lanting present a lyrical vision of life on Earth from the Big Bang to the present. The exhibition of 40 photographs, which has been shown internationally, chronicles a journey Lanting made in 2000 when he sought to capture the microscopic worlds and primordial landscapes that are chapters in the history of the world and life upon it.

Hailed as one of the great nature photographers of the present day, Lanting, who served as photographer-in-residence at *National Geographic* in 2006, launched the LIFE project in that year. The project encompasses this exhibition, a book, a website and a multi-media orchestral performance with music composed by Philip Glass. That music will have its New England premiere on April 27 when the Hartford Symphony Orchestra performs *Life: A Journey Through Time*.

The ArtWalk’s exhibition of Lanting’s large-format photographic panels is a “mosaic,” the artist says, and the synthesis of his career. “I started out as a wildlife photographer pursuing animals one at a time. As I learned more about their lives, my view grew to include their habitats, and animals became ambassadors for ecosystems.” He explains that with his LIFE project, he has tried to create a tribute to the kinship and continuity of life on Earth.

Lanting and his wife, editor and videographer Christine Eckstrom, have produced numerous natural history and photography books, including *Jungles* (2001), *Penguin* (1999), *Eye to Eye* (1997), and *Okavango: Africa’s Last Eden* (1993).

Lanting serves on the National Council for the World Wildlife Fund and has received many prestigious awards for his work, including BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year and the Sierra Club’s Ansel Adams Award. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society in London.

As part of the celebration around this exhibition, Hartford Symphony Orchestra's Green Quartet will play at the special April 12 opening reception in the **ArtWalk**. This reception is free and all are welcome. Then, at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 26, visitors will have a chance to meet photographer Frans Lanting when he presents a one-hour presentation with slides in the Center for Contemporary Culture at the Hartford Public Library Downtown Branch (500 Main Street).

At 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra will present the New England premiere of *LIFE: A Journey Through Time*, a multi-media extravaganza for the senses featuring photographs by Lanting and original music by Philip Glass at Mortensen Hall at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford.

The HSO will take the audience through stages of Earth's evolution as music plays continuously and Lanting's photographs are projected on a screen. HSO music director and conductor Carolyn Kuan will lead the symphony orchestra in Glass's composition.

Frans Lanting's photographs will be on display in the **ArtWalk** until May 13. The **ArtWalk** is open Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., as well as Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Until the end of April, the **ArtWalk** is open on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m.

About Hartford Public Library

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 865,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. To learn more about the library, please see www.hplct.org

About ArtWalk

ArtWalk at Hartford Public Library offers one of the largest and most stunning spaces in greater Hartford and the opportunity for visitors to view art in a magnificent setting in their own community. The gallery was made possible through the generosity of donors, especially the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

About Hartford Symphony

The Hartford Symphony Orchestra receives major support from the Greater Hartford Arts Council, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and with support from the Department of Economic and Community Development, Connecticut Office of the Arts which also receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Tickets to *LIFE* are available for \$20.50 or \$35. Student tickets are \$10. To purchase tickets or for more information, please contact HSO ticket services at 860-244-2999 or visit www.hartfordsymphony.org