

Asteroseismology: The Real Music of the Spheres

PUBLIC TALK

Prof Donald Kurtz
(North-West University)



DATE:

Wednesday, 15 July 2026
18h00-20h00 SAST

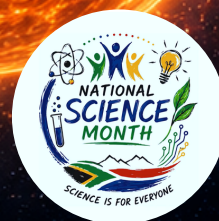


VENUES:

- STIAS Auditorium
10 Marais Road, Stellenbosch
- Online



A recording of the talk will be published
on the [NITheCS YouTube channel](#) afterwards



ABSTRACT

Some 2,500 years ago Pythagoras and his followers believed in a harmony of the heavens: the Music of the Spheres. In just the last few decades we have discovered that there is a real Music of the Spheres. Sounds and other vibrations within the stars allow us literally to see to their very cores using the new techniques of asteroseismology. We are in a time of unprecedented advances in our understanding of stellar astrophysics using data from space missions. These have improved our ability to see pulsations and variability in stars by 100 to 1,000 times compared with ground-based telescopes. Astrophysics that used to be purely theoretical is now also observational.

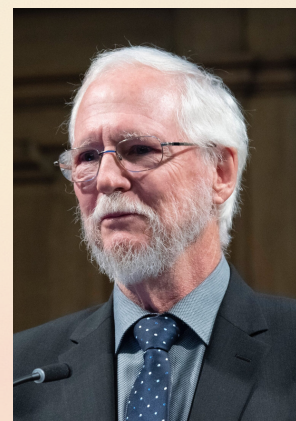
This talk will introduce the concepts of asteroseismology, show its relation to music, and present a selection of the latest exciting observational results.



BIOGRAPHY

Prof Don Kurtz obtained his PhD in astronomy from the University of Texas at Austin in 1976. He spent 24 years at the University of Cape Town before serving as Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Central Lancashire for 20 years. He is currently Extraordinary Professor at North-West University, Professor Emeritus at the University of Central Lancashire, and Visiting Professor at the University of Lincoln. He holds an A-1 NRF research rating and received the Royal Astronomical Society's 2022 Service Award for his lifetime contribution to astronomy and public outreach.

Prof Kurtz has authored more than 540 scientific publications, co-authored the textbook *Asteroseismology*, and discovered a class of pulsating magnetic stars. He works primarily with data from the Kepler and TESS space missions and is a sought-after international speaker who has also appeared on BBC programmes including *Stargazing Live* and *The Sky at Night*.



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join us for a journey into
the hidden music of the stars

REGISTER TO ATTEND:

<https://bit.ly/4t46HCl>

MORE INFO:

uwc.southernstars.org.za/public-talk-prof-donald-kurtz

