



WHO WE ARE

Loch Ness Productions is an innovative company that features the talents of two talented and creative people whose passion is communicating astronomy and space science news to the public: **Mark and Carolyn Collins Petersen**.

The company was formed in 1977 by Mark, then the Composer-in-Residence at Boulder's Fiske Planetarium. Many pleased planetarium patrons came up after the shows, asking where they could get the music they had heard. Since it was original music composed just for the shows, Mark noted the most-requested selections, and released the first of more than a dozen GEODESIUM albums. Over the years, Loch Ness Productions has added other multimedia production materials to its catalog of products, many of them written by Carolyn, an award-winning science writer specializing in astronomy and space science. Production of planetarium shows began in 1980. Since that time, Loch Ness Productions has produced and distributed more than a dozen of its own shows in classical and full-dome video formats. In 2009, the company began distribution of selected full-dome programs and software created by others in the full-dome community.

Since its founding, Loch Ness Productions is pleased to count more than 2,300 customers in the U.S. and 60 other countries who have purchased programs, images, music, or software. Today, Loch Ness Productions is focused on creating and distributing digital multimedia products for full-dome theaters, along with content development and creation for museum exhibits.



Mark C. Petersen, president

Mark is a long-time producer of full-dome and classic planetarium shows, broadcast and online videos, and has more than three decades of experience as soundtrack producer and space music composer.

Mark has created original music and custom soundtracks for major planetaria, Sky-Skan, Evans & Sutherland, NASA News Net's coverage of the Voyager encounters, and video press and Web releases as well as the popular exhibit "ViewSpace" from the Space Telescope Science Institute. For Caedmon Records, he produced a 20-minute "Comet Halley" soundtrack for worldwide distribution. In 1985, 1987, and 1988, he took his keyboards on the road, performing in live planetarium concerts in the U.S. and the U.K. Mark has also worked with advertising agencies, film, video, and multi-image producers on radio and TV commercials, jingles and other projects. Mark produced the video program "*HUBBLE: Report From Orbit*", which was awarded First Prize in the Casa de las Ciencias (La Coruña, Spain) Sixth Contest for Science Publications in 1993.

Mark's degree is in Music Education from the University of Colorado. A Fellow of the International Planetarium Society, he served as Treasurer and Membership Chairman from 1985-1990, and undertook the development and annual publication of the IPS Directory of Planetaria and Planetarians. Mark served as President and Secretary/Treasurer of the Rocky Mountain Planetarium Association (1983-87), and instituted the publication of its quarterly journal, the *High Altitude Observer*. He maintains extensive databases of domed theaters and full-dome presentations, and periodically publishes a ***State of the Dome Address***, detailing the current state of the domed theater community.

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Carolyn Collins Petersen, CEO

Carolyn is an award-winning science writer and producer. She has authored more than two dozen Loch Ness Productions shows; plus scripts for Evans & Sutherland and several major planetaria. In addition, she wrote astronomy exhibits for Griffith Observatory and the climate change exhibition at California Academy of Sciences. She has taught science writing workshops, and does public lectures at conferences and on cruise ships. She is also a voice-over actor, with many science narrations to her credit, and is a producer for Astrocast.TV, an online space and astronomy news magazine.

Carolyn is associate editor of Gemini Observatory's *GeminiFocus* magazine, and has worked with Subaru and MIT's Haystack Observatories to help shape their public outreach products. She has served on Education and Public Outreach advisory boards for several spacecraft missions.

Carolyn is the lead author of "*Visions of the Cosmos*," and "*Hubble Vision*," (both co-written with Dr. John C. Brandt and published by Cambridge University Press), and was co-editor (with J. Kelly Beatty and Andrew Chaikin) of "*The New Solar System*," 4th Edition, (Sky Publishing Corporation; Cambridge University Press). From 1997 through 2000, Carolyn was Editor of Books and Products at Sky Publishing Corporation, Editor of *SkyWatch* magazine, and Associate Editor of *Sky & Telescope* magazine.

She holds a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Colorado, where she was also a Professional Research Associate with the Hubble Space Telescope's Goddard High Resolution Spectrograph team at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics. She also served as observation coordinator for the Ulysses Comet Watch.

A member of the International Planetarium Society since 1978, Carolyn is an IPS Fellow. She served as IPS Publications Chair (1985-1990), and is a former President of the Rocky Mountain Planetarium Association (1987-1989). Carolyn is also a member of the American Astronomical Society and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.