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## Alan Lightman

Theoretical Physicist and Novelist  
At the Crossroads of Art and Science

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Situated at the intersection of art and science, Alan Lightman's work boldly bridges the gap -- and inventively cross-pollinates -- between these two very different, but similar worlds. An award-winning novelist (*Einstein's Dream*) and a theoretical physicist, Lightman speaks elegantly about the creative and scientific processes; the role of intuition and imagination; the nature of time; the work of Einstein; the meeting of science and faith; and the sheer wonder and fragility of human nature -- of what it means to be alive. *The Los Angeles Times* calls him "a scientist who is a humanist in the noblest sense of the word."

Lightman is the author of over twenty beautifully realized books. His international best-selling novels include *The Diagnosis*, and *Einstein's Dream*, which re-imagines dreams Einstein had during the time he created The Theory of Relativity. Translated into thirty languages, it is one of the most widely read books on university campuses. Lightman's new novel, *Ghost*, looks at a controversial, topical issue: the delicate divide between science and religion. E.O. Wilson calls it "an important novel." Lightman is also the author of acclaimed non-fiction books, including *A Sense of the Mysterious* and *The Discoveries*. A fellow of The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Lightman is a two-time juror for the Pulitzer Prize, and an essayist who has written for *Nature* and *The New Yorker*.

Lightman taught at Harvard, and is one of the first people to receive a dual faculty appointment, in science and in the Humanities, at MIT, where he is an adjunct professor of Humanities. *The New York Times* praises him as "a scientist in love with words, one who can write clearly and appealingly about his subject for a lay readership."

### Additional Keynote Presentations by Alan Lightman

#### Einstein and the Theory of Relativity

Lightman's survey of Einstein's work, and an introduction to the strangeness of physical reality, the inadequacy of sense perception, and the triumph of imagination.

#### The Diagnosis

Based on his National Book Award nominated book, Lightman examines our society's compulsion for speed, information and money, and explores how the relentless pace of modern life affects our sense of intimacy and relationships, and how it alters our concepts of identity.

#### The Discoveries

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Using their original papers, Lightman delves into the minds and emotional lives of the scientists who made the the 20th Century's great scientific breakthroughs. Are there common patterns of discovery in science? How many great discoveries were accidental, and how many intentional? What was the lasting impact of each discovery?