

## Author of the Week: **Mario Livio**



### Biographical details

Mario Livio (born 1945) is an Israeli-American astrophysicist and an author of works that popularize science and mathematics. From 1991 till 2015 he was an astrophysicist at the Space Telescope Science Institute, which operates the Hubble Space Telescope. He is perhaps best known for his book on the irrational number phi: *The Golden Ratio: The Story of Phi, the World's Most Astonishing Number* (2002). The book won the Peano Prize and the International Pythagoras Prize for popular books on mathematics.

### Works

For almost twenty years Livio has popularized astronomy and mathematics through books, lectures, magazine articles, and radio and television appearances. He has delivered popular lectures at TEDxMidAtlantic on YouTube, the Smithsonian Institution, the Hayden Planetarium, the Maryland Institute College of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and the Glasgow Science Centre. He has appeared on radio and TV outlets including PBS, NPR and CBS to discuss scientific and mathematical subjects.

Livio's first book of popular science was *The Accelerating Universe* (2000), which explained in layman's terms the theory that the universe was expanding at a faster and faster rate. He explored the possible causes and the theoretical implications of continuing expansion, especially its implications for beliefs about the "beauty" of the scientific laws that govern the cosmos.

A self-described "art fanatic" who owns hundreds of art books, Livio put this interest to good use in his next book, *The Golden Ratio: The Story of Phi* (2002). He traced the influence of the golden ratio through many centuries of art, architecture, music, and even stock market theories. Dan Brown, author of *The Da Vinci Code*, endorsed the book stating, "Livio unveils the history and mystery of the remarkable number phi in such a way that math-buffs and math-phobes alike can celebrate her wonder ... you will never again look at a pyramid, pinecone or Picasso in the same light." [citation needed]

*The Equation That Couldn't Be Solved* (2005) explains how efforts to solve the quintic equation led to group theory and to the mathematics of symmetry. He emphasizes the crucial roles of Évariste Galois and Niels Henrik Abel in developing this branch of mathematics. He also "keeps the hard stuff to a minimum," in the words of a Publishers Weekly review. The book contains biographical sketches of Galois, Abel and several other mathematicians.

To know more please visit the following Links

1. <https://usasciencefestival.org/people/dr-mario-livio/>
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mario\\_Livio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mario_Livio)
3. <http://www.mariolivio.com/>
4. <https://www.simonandschuster.com/authors/Mario-Livio/21655505>

