

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tickets for *Star Wars: A New Hope* and *The Empire Strikes Back* in concert with the NJSO on sale May 4



NJSO to present screenings of the iconic films with Oscar-winning composer John Williams' scores performed live

Tickets for *Mary Poppins* in concert also on sale May 4

NJSO performs movies in Red Bank, Newark and New Brunswick

***Star Wars: A New Hope* – Nov 23–25, 2018**

***Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* – Jan 4–6, 2019**

***Mary Poppins in Concert* – Apr 12–14, 2019**

NEWARK, NJ—In celebration of Star Wars Day, single tickets for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's performances of the first two films in the *Star Wars: Film Concert Series* go on sale on Friday, May 4, at 10 am. The NJSO presents screenings of the complete films *Star Wars: A New Hope* and *The Empire Strikes Back* with Oscar-winning composer John Williams' musical scores performed live in November 2018 and January 2019, respectively.

Tickets for *Mary Poppins* in Concert—the third film in the NJSO’s 2018–19 Pops Movie Series—also go on sale May 4. The classic Disney film won multiple Academy Awards.

Fans will be able to experience the scope and grandeur of these beloved films in a live symphonic concert experience at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick.

Since the release of the first *Star Wars* movie nearly 40 years ago, the *Star Wars* saga has had a seismic impact on both cinema and culture, inspiring audiences around the world with its mythic storytelling, captivating characters, groundbreaking special effects and iconic musical scores composed by Williams.

The NJSO performs *A New Hope* on Friday, November 23, at 8 pm at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank; Saturday, November 24, at 8 pm at NJPAC in Newark; and Sunday, November 25, at 3 pm at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick.

The Orchestra performs *The Empire Strikes Back* on Friday, January 4, at 8 pm at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank; Saturday, January 5, at 8 pm at NJPAC in Newark; and Sunday, January 6, at 3 pm at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick.

Mary Poppins in Concert is a family-friendly, symphonic cinema event featuring the five-time Oscar award winning Disney film unfolding on the big screen with a live symphony orchestra performing the Sherman Brothers’ charming and delightful musical score. The Sherman Brothers won Academy Awards for Best Original Song (for “Chim Chim Cher-ee”) and Best Original Musical Score.

Performances of *Mary Poppins* take place on Friday, April 12, at 8 pm at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank; Saturday, April 13, at 8 pm at NJPAC in Newark; and Sunday, April 14, at 3 pm at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick.

State Theatre New Jersey co-presents the November 25, January 6 and April 14 performances.

For more information, visit www.njsymphony.org/movies.

JOHN WILLIAMS

Legendary composer Williams is well known for scoring all eight of the *Star Wars* saga films, beginning with 1977’s *Star Wars (Episode IV: A New Hope)*, for which he earned an Academy Award for Best Original Score. His scores for *Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back*, *Episode VI: Return of the Jedi* and *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* each were nominated for Oscars for Best Original Score. *Return of the Jedi* was released on December 15, 2017.

Williams has won five Academy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards, seven British Academy Film Awards and 22 Grammy Awards. With 50 Academy Award nominations, Williams is the Academy’s most nominated living person and the second most-nominated individual in history, after Walt Disney. In 2005, the American Film Institute selected Williams’ score to 1977’s *Star Wars* as the greatest American film score of all time. The soundtrack to *Star Wars* also was preserved by the Library of Congress in the National Recording Registry for being “culturally, historically or aesthetically significant.” Williams was inducted into the Hollywood Bowl’s Hall of Fame in 2000, and he received the Kennedy Center Honors in 2004, the National Medal of Arts in 2009 and the AFI Life Achievement Award in 2016. Williams has composed the scores for eight of the top 20 highest-grossing films at the US box office (adjusted for inflation).

TICKETS

Single tickets start at \$20 and will be available from the NJSO online at www.njsymphony.org, by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or in person. The NJSO Patron Services office is located at 60 Park Place, 9th floor, in Newark; hours are Monday–Friday, 9 am–5 pm, and concert Saturdays, 11 am–5 pm.

Tickets for the November 25, January 6 and April 14 performances will also be available from State Theatre New Jersey online at www.STNJ.org, by phone at 732.246.SHOW (7469) or in person. The State Theatre New Jersey Guest Services office is located at 15 Livingston Ave in New Brunswick. Hours are Monday—Friday, 10 am—6 pm, and at least three hours prior to curtain on performance dates unless otherwise specified.

THE PROGRAMS

STAR WARS: A NEW HOPE IN CONCERT

Fri, Nov 23, at 8 pm | Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sat, Nov 24, at 8 pm | NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Nov 25, at 3 pm | State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

CONSTANTINE KITSOPOULOS conductor
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Luke Skywalker begins a journey that will change the galaxy, as he leaves his home planet, battles the evil Empire and learns the ways of the Force. Don't miss *Star Wars: A New Hope* in concert, with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra performing John Williams' Oscar-winning score live to the complete film.

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Nov 25 performance presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.

STAR WARS: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK IN CONCERT

Fri, Jan 4, at 8 pm | Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
Sat, Jan 5, at 8 pm | NJPAC in Newark
Sun, Jan 6, at 3 pm | State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

CONSTANTINE KITSOPOULOS conductor
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

After the destruction of the Death Star, the Empire has regrouped—with Darth Vader leading the hunt for Luke Skywalker. *Star Wars* and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra join forces for *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* in concert, featuring the iconic movie on the big screen with the NJSO performing John Williams' legendary score live.

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Jan 6 performance presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.

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MARY POPPINS IN CONCERT WITH THE NJSO

Fri, Apr 12 at 8 pm Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank
 Sat, Apr 13 at 8 pm NJPAC in Newark
 Sun, Apr 14 at 3 pm State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Step in time, it's one heart-tugging, toe-tapping song after another in the beloved film *Mary Poppins*! This family-friendly, symphonic cinema event features the five-time Oscar-winning Disney film unfolding on the big screen with the NJSO performing the charming and delightful musical score. Don't miss this *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* wonder live with the NJSO!

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Apr 14 performance presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.

DISNEY CONCERTS

Disney Concerts is the concert production and licensing division of Disney Music Group, the music arm of The Walt Disney Company. Disney Concerts produces concerts and tours and licenses Disney music and visual content to symphony orchestras and presenters on a worldwide basis. Disney Concerts' concert packages include a variety of formats, such as "live to picture" film concerts and themed instrumental and vocal compilation concerts, and range from instrumental-only symphonic performances to multimedia productions featuring live vocalists and choir. Current titles include the *Star Wars Film Concert Series (Episodes IV–VII)*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Fantasia*, *Pixar In Concert*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Alice In Wonderland*, *Frozen*, *Ratatouille*, *The Pirates of the Caribbean series (Episodes I–IV)* and *Silly Symphonies*, which last year collectively accounted for more than 400 performances in many of the world's top concert venues, including Lincoln Center, Royal Albert Hall, Sydney Opera House, Tokyo Forum and the Hollywood Bowl. Numerous new concert packages and touring productions from Disney's portfolio of studios, including Disney's feature animation and live-action studios, Pixar, Lucasfilm and Marvel, are currently in development.

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Named "a vital, artistically significant musical organization" by *The Wall Street Journal*, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra embodies that vitality through its statewide presence and critically acclaimed performances, education partnerships and unparalleled access to music and the Orchestra's superb musicians.

Music Director Xian Zhang—a "dynamic podium presence" *The New York Times* has praised for her "technical abilities, musicianship and maturity"—continues her acclaimed leadership of the NJSO. The Orchestra presents classical, pops and family programs, as well as outdoor summer concerts and special events. Embracing its legacy as a statewide orchestra, the NJSO is the resident orchestra of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and regularly performs at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick, Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown and bergenPAC in Englewood. Partnerships with New Jersey arts organizations, universities and civic organizations remain a key element of the Orchestra's statewide identity.

In addition to its lauded artistic programming, the NJSO presents a suite of education and community engagement programs that promote meaningful, lifelong engagement with live music. Programs include school-time Concerts for Young People; NJSO Youth Orchestras family of student ensembles, currently led by José Luis Domínguez; and El Sistema-inspired NJSO CHAMPS (Character, Achievement and Music Project). NJSO musicians annually perform original chamber music programs at community events in a variety of settings statewide through the NJSO Community Partners Program.

For more information about the NJSO, visit www.njsymphony.org or email information@njsymphony.org. Tickets are available for purchase by phone 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or on the Orchestra's website.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's programs are made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, along with many other foundations, corporations and individual donors.

STATE THEATRE NEW JERSEY

State Theatre New Jersey—creating extraordinary experiences through the power of live performance. The theater exists to enrich people's lives, contribute to a vital urban environment and build future audiences by presenting the finest performing artists and entertainers and fostering lifetime appreciation for the performing arts through education. State Theatre New Jersey's programs are made possible in part by funding from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and contributions from numerous corporations, foundations and individuals.

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