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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NJSO presents *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* in Concert, Apr 17–19

**Orchestra to perform Oscar®-winning composer John Williams' score live
Double-feature deal offers discounts on multiple *Star Wars* film concerts
Performances take place in Red Bank, Newark and New Brunswick**

NEWARK, NJ—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra presents *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* in concert April 17–19.

Performances take place on April 17 at 8 pm at the Count Basie Center for the Arts, April 18 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm at NJPAC and April 19 at 3 pm at State Theatre New Jersey.

Thirty years after the defeat of the Empire, Luke Skywalker has vanished, and a new threat has risen: The First Order, led by the mysterious Supreme Leader Snoke and his enforcer, Kylo Ren. General Leia Organa's military force, the Resistance—and unlikely heroes brought together by fate—are the galaxy's only hope.

Since the release of the first *Star Wars* movie more than 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.

Through a double-feature deal, NJSO concertgoers can save when purchasing tickets to both *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* in concert.

The NJSO performs *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* in concert on March 19, 2021, at 8 pm at the Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank; March 20, 2021, at 2 pm and 7:30 pm at NJPAC in Newark and March 21, 2021, at 3 pm at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick.

In Lucasfilm's *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, the Skywalker saga continues as the heroes of *The Force Awakens* join galactic legends in an epic adventure that unlocks age-old mysteries of the Force and shocking revelations of the past. Experience this thrilling film like never before as the NJSO performs Oscar®-winning composer John Williams' exhilarating score live.

Constantine Kitsopoulos conducts.

Tickets start at \$35; through a special double-feature deal, patrons can save 25% by purchasing tickets to two films. Tickets for all dates and locations are available from the NJSO online at njsymphony.org, by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or in person at 60 Park Place, Suite 900, in Newark. NJSO Patron Services hours are Monday–Friday, 10 am–5 pm, and concert Saturdays, 11 am–5 pm.

Tickets for the New Brunswick performances are available from State Theatre New Jersey online at STNJ.org, by phone at 732.246.SHOW (7469) or in person at 15 Livingston Ave in New Brunswick. State Theatre New Jersey Guest Services hours are Monday—Friday, 10 am–6 pm; Saturday, 1–5 pm, and at least three hours prior to curtain on performance dates unless otherwise specified.

For more information, visit njsymphony.org/starwars.

State Theatre New Jersey co-presents the April 19, 2020, and March 21, 2021, performances.

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John Williams

In a career spanning more than five decades, John Williams has become one of America’s most accomplished and successful composers for film and for the concert stage, and he remains one of our nation’s most distinguished and contributive musical voices. He has composed the music and served as music director for more than 100 films, including all eight *Star Wars* films, the first three *Harry Potter* films, *Superman*, *JFK*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, *Far and Away*, *The Accidental Tourist*, *Home Alone* and *The Book Thief*. His 45-year artistic partnership with director Steven Spielberg has resulted in many of Hollywood’s most acclaimed and successful films, including *Schindler’s List*, *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*, *Jaws*, *Jurassic Park*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, the *Indiana Jones* films, *Munich*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *The Adventures of Tintin*, *War Horse*, *Lincoln*, *The BFG* and *The Post*. His contributions to television music include scores for more than 200 television films for the groundbreaking, early anthology series *Alcoa Theatre*, *Kraft Television Theatre*, *Chrysler Theatre* and *Playhouse 90*, as well as themes for *NBC Nightly News* (“The Mission”), *NBC’s Meet the Press* and the PBS arts showcase *Great Performances*. He also composed themes for the 1984, 1988 and 1996 Summer Olympic Games and the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

He has received five Academy Awards® and 52 Oscar® nominations, making him the Academy’s most-nominated living person and the second-most nominated person in the history of the Oscars. He has received seven British Academy Awards (BAFTA), 25 Grammys®, four Golden Globes®, five Emmys® and numerous gold and platinum records. In 2003, he received the Olympic Order (the IOC’s highest honor) for his contributions to the Olympic movement. He received the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors in December of 2004. In 2009, Williams was inducted into the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, and he received the National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists by the US government. In 2016, he received the 44th Life Achievement Award from the American Film Institute—the first time in their history that this honor was bestowed upon a composer.

In January 1980, Williams was named the 19th music director of the Boston Pops Orchestra, succeeding the legendary Arthur Fiedler. He currently holds the title of Boston Pops Laureate Conductor, which he assumed following his retirement in December, 1993, after 14 highly successful seasons. He also holds the title of artist-in-residence at Tanglewood. Williams has composed numerous works for the concert stage, among them two symphonies, and concertos commissioned by several of the world’s leading orchestras, including a cello concerto for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, a bassoon concerto for the New York Philharmonic, a trumpet concerto for The Cleveland Orchestra and a horn concerto for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In 2009, Williams composed and arranged “Air and Simple Gifts” especially for the first inaugural ceremony of President Barack Obama, and in September 2009, the Boston Symphony premiered a new concerto for harp and orchestra entitled “On Willows and Birches.”

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 575 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 Center for the Arts 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 and the NJSO Youth Orchestras family of student ensembles, led by José Luis Domínguez. NJSO musicians annually perform original chamber music programs at community events in a variety of settings statewide through the NJSO Community Partners program.

Tickets are available for purchase by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or at njsymphony.org.

Connect with Us:

Website: njsymphony.org

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YouTube: [@NewJerseySymphony](https://www.youtube.com/@NewJerseySymphony)

Email: information@njsymphony.org

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.

For more information, visit STNJ.org.

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