NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR

2026–27 Full Season Listing

Hollywood Hits: From *West Side Story* to *Spirited Away*

A Celebration of the Best Orchestral Music in Cinema

Red Bank → Saturday, Oct 10, 7:30 pm
Newark → Sunday, Oct 11, 2 pm

Keitaro Harada conductor
New Jersey Symphony

Paul Dukas *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*
Leonard Bernstein Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*
Joe Hisaishi Suite from *Spirited Away*
George Gershwin *An American in Paris*

Lights, camera, action! Rising-star conductor Keitaro Harada leads a program of thrilling orchestral music from classic movies. Movie-musicals *West Side Story* and *An American in Paris*, with their timeless tunes, are heard alongside Joe Hisaishi's score to the Studio Ghibli masterpiece *Spirited Away*. Don't miss this festive performance with music that dazzles and delights—the perfect way to celebrate the start of the season.

Opening Weekend: Beethoven's "Emperor" & Schubert's "Great"

New Jersey Symphony Classical

Princeton → Friday, Oct 23, 7:30 pm
Newark → Saturday, Oct 24, 7:30 pm
New Brunswick → Sunday, Oct 25, 2 pm

Xian Zhang conductor
George Li piano
New Jersey Symphony

Ludwig van Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor"
New Jersey favorite George Li returns with Beethoven's final and most epic piano concerto, a work of uncommon power and passion, both heroic in scope and striking in its intimacy.

Franz Schubert Symphony No. 9 in C Major, "The Great"
Schubert was classical music's original tunesmith—his melodies rival Paul McCartney, Richard Rodgers, and even Taylor Swift. His songful gift is heard to maximum effect in the "heavenly lengths" of his final symphony, never

performed during his lifetime.

These performances are sponsored by the Lipper Family Charitable Foundation, Norm Slonaker & Linda Dujack, Greenberg Traurig, LLP and PNC.

A.R. Rahman with New Jersey Symphony

Part of the *A.R. Rahman: The Symphonic Experience* Tour

Newark → Tuesday, Nov 3, 7:30 pm
Newark → Wednesday, Nov 4, 7:30 pm

A.R. Rahman guest artist
Jonathan Taylor Rush conductor
New Jersey Symphony

Renowned worldwide as A. R. Rahman, the celebrated composer, performer and producer has transformed the landscape of Indian film and contemporary music with a sound that transcends borders and generations. With more than 160 film soundtracks and albums spanning multiple languages, Rahman's extraordinary body of work includes iconic films such as *Roja*, *Bombay*, *Dil Se*, *Taal*, *Lagaan*, *Jodhaa Akbar*, *Ponniyin Selvan*, *Slumdog Millionaire* and *127 Hours* as he'll be playing his greatest hits this fall at the NJPAC. Experience the evening with your New Jersey Symphony as the orchestra joins Rahman to bring his genre-spanning compositions—ranging from Eastern classical, pop, world music, and rap—to breathtaking new heights.

For tickets, go to njpac.org or call the NJPAC Box Office at 1.888.696.5722.

Presented by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Rick Steves' Europe: A Symphonic Journey

A Musical Journey of Rick Steves' Travels Through Europe and its History

Morristown → Saturday, Nov 7, 2 pm & 7:30 pm
New Brunswick → Sunday, Nov 8, 2 pm

Rick Steves host
Nicholas Hersh conductor
New Jersey Symphony

John Stafford Smith/arr. Walter Damrosch *The Star Spangled Banner*
Johann Strauss *Emperor Waltz*
Richard Wagner Prelude to Act III of *Lohengrin*
Bedřich Smetana "The Moldau", No. 2 from *Má vlast*
Sir Edward Elgar *Pomp and Circumstance* March No. 1

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov *Capriccio espagnol* (Mvt. IV & V only)
Giuseppe Verdi *Nabucco* Overture
Edvard Grieg "Morning Mood" from *Peer Gynt*
Camille Saint-Saëns "Marche militaire française" from *Suite algérienne*
Ludwig van Beethoven Excerpt from Symphony No. 9, "Ode to Joy"
John Philip Sousa *Stars and Stripes Forever*

Usually you'll find Rick Steves touring the great destinations of Europe. Now you can join him on a different journey: *A Symphonic Journey*. In this unique concert, Rick Steves teams up with the New Jersey Symphony for a performance that combines Europe's most stirring romantic-era anthems with beautiful high-definition cinematography and Rick's insights into European history.

Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*

Part of the TD James Moody Jazz Festival

Newark → Thursday, Nov 19, 1:30 pm
Red Bank → Saturday, Nov 21, 7:30 pm
Newark → Sunday, Nov 22, 2 pm

Eric Jacobsen conductor
Christian McBride double bass
Chris Komer horn
New Jersey Symphony

Claude Debussy *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*
A languid flute solo opens a portal into another world, with Debussy's shimmering orchestral colors as vivid as any Monet painting.

George Duke *Dark Wood: Bass Concerto for Christian McBride*
Hear the Garden State's own jazz master in a work tailor-made for his unique groove and virtuosity as he solos with the New Jersey Symphony for the first time.

Christian McBride *Fried Bacon*
Christian McBride's first work for symphony orchestra, *Fried Bacon* was originally written for and premiered by Chris Komer, New Jersey Symphony Principal Horn extraordinaire, in 2022. The world premiere brought the house down and we can't wait to play it again.

Sergei Rachmaninoff *Symphonic Dances*
An elegiac melody, a *Dies Irae* quote, a saxophone solo, and the tolling of church bells are among the many extraordinary effects in Rachmaninoff's final work, written in exile from a Russia to which he'd never return, and which would never be the same.

The November 19 & 22 performances are part of the TD James Moody Jazz Festival and are presented in collaboration with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

The November 19 & 22 concerts are sponsored by the Berger Family Foundation, in honor of Milt and Mona Hinton.

Jersey City Holiday Concert

Presented by Mayor James Solomon and the City of Jersey City

Jersey City → Wednesday, Dec 2, 7 pm

Ricardo Ferro conductor
New Jersey Symphony

Join Mayor James Solomon, the City of Jersey City, and New Jersey Symphony for an unforgettable holiday concert at the historic Loew's Theatre! This special celebration is free for Jersey City residents, with priority access for seniors and Jersey City students. Special thanks to our generous sponsors for helping make this inaugural holiday concert possible. We'd also like to encourage attendees to bring a new, unwrapped toy in support of the City's Toy Drive.

Presented by Mayor James Solomon and the City of Jersey City, in collaboration with Friends of the Loew's and New Jersey Symphony.

Ricardo Ferro is the 2026–27 Colton Conducting Fellow, made possible by the generous support of Judy and Stewart Colton.

New Jersey Ballet's *The Nutcracker* with New Jersey Symphony

Presented by New Jersey Ballet

Morristown → Dec 11–27

Brent Chancellor conductor (for December 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 & 20 concerts)
Ricardo Ferro conductor (for December 24, 26 & 27 concerts)
New Jersey Ballet
New Jersey Symphony

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky *The Nutcracker*
Based on *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* by E.T.A. Hoffman

New Jersey Ballet's *The Nutcracker* is the longest running original professional production in the state. The production debuted in Millburn in 1971 with international star of New York City Ballet Edward Villella as the Cavalier. Since then, the company has given approximately 800 performances in theatres throughout New Jersey, with more than 5,000 dancers and children, and over a million viewers. Many in the audience who saw the production as children now bring their own children and grandchildren to see this cherished holiday tradition.

New Jersey Ballet's *The Nutcracker* at MPAC will feature the New Jersey Symphony. When the curtain rises, audiences in Morristown can expect the eye-popping special effects, brilliant dancing, glorious costumes, and the magic and pantomime that has inspired critics to call it "A spectacle that never seems to age…magic that should

go on and on," and "One of the best…as good as it gets."

For tickets, buy online at mayoarts.org or contact the Mayo Performing Arts Center box office at 973.539.8008.

Presented by New Jersey Ballet, in collaboration with the Mayo Performing Arts Center and the New Jersey Symphony.

Ricardo Ferro is the 2026–27 Colton Conducting Fellow, made possible by the generous support of Judy and Stewart Colton.

Handel's *Messiah*

New Jersey Symphony Holiday Tradition

Princeton → Friday, Dec 18, 7:30 pm - Richardson Auditorium in Princeton
Montclair → Saturday, Dec 19, 7:30 pm – Alexander Kasser Theater
Newark → Sunday, Dec 20, 7 pm - Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Kedrick Armstrong conductor
Jessica Rivera soprano
Kelley O'Connor mezzo-soprano
Martin Bakari tenor
Kevin Short bass-baritone
Montclair State University Singers | Heather J. Buchanan, director
New Jersey Symphony

George Frideric Handel *Messiah*

"For unto us a Child is born." Our glorious holiday tradition returns with this iconic masterpiece, a classical rendition of the greatest story ever told. The majestic music—including the triumphant "Hallelujah Chorus"—rekindles the spirit of the holidays for first-time listeners and those who return each season.

The December 19 performance is presented by PEAK Performances at Montclair State University.

Mozart & Ravel

New Jersey Symphony Classical

Princeton → Friday, Jan 8, 7:30 pm
Red Bank → Saturday, Jan 9, 7:30 pm
Morristown → Sunday, Jan 10, 2 pm

Valentina Peleggi conductor
Blake Pouliot violin
New Jersey Symphony

Anna Clyne *Masquerade*
Originally written for the Last Night of the Proms, English composer Anna Clyne conveys a sense of "occasion and celebration." Or, as the *Berkshire Eagle* put it, "*Masquerade* has the style and sound of an old English music hall, a little like the nostalgic sounds on *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*."

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Violin Concerto No. 5, "Turkish"
At just 19 years old, Mozart wrote this virtuosic and sparkling concerto for himself to play (even though it wasn't his primary instrument!). Canadian phenom Blake Pouliot brings his signature stage presence to this equally thrilling and elegant masterpiece.

Maurice Ravel *Mother Goose* Suite
The New York Times recently said "Ravel wrote nothing more magical, and perhaps nothing so moving" as the final movement of this extraordinary suite—ostensibly for children, but with a complexity and emotional depth as profound as any work of art.

Samuel Barber Symphony No. 1
In just 20 minutes and one movement, Barber's First Symphony packs a punch well beyond its relatively short length. The first American symphony to be played at the Salzburg Festival, Barber's singular emotional voice, which would later produce *Adagio for Strings*, shines through every bar.

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini

New Jersey Symphony Classical

Newark → Friday, Jan 22, 7:30 pm
Newark → Saturday, Jan 23, 7:30 pm
New Brunswick → Sunday, Jan 24, 2 pm

Xian Zhang conductor
Tony Siqi Yun piano
New Jersey Symphony

Richard Wagner Overture to *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*
Long before *The Voice*, Wagner created the original drama about a singing competition with his only comedy, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. This rousing overture prominently features the "Prize Song" which wins the whole contest—a real catchy tune!

Sergei Rachmaninoff *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*
Rachmaninoff's final work for piano and orchestra, this masterpiece of invention transforms a seemingly simple melody 24 different times, taking full advantage of the expressive and technical possibilities of the piano. Rachmaninoff himself was the soloist at the world premiere—hear the next best thing as "true poet of the keyboard" (*Pianist* magazine) Tony Siqi Yun navigates every twist and turn.

Alexander Zemlinsky *The Mermaid*
Travel "Under the Sea" with Alexander Zemlinsky for his shimmering musical retelling of the legendary Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale. While a relative rarity, Xian Zhang has long championed this work, reveling in its

romantic sweep and glittering orchestrations—you'll wonder why it took so long for this piece to be "Part of Your World."

Tony Siqi Yun's appearance is dedicated to the memory of Stanlee and Florence Kissel.

Discover Rachmaninoff

New Jersey Symphony Family Concert

Newark → Saturday, Jan 23, 2 pm

Xian Zhang conductor
Bill Barclay host
Tony Siqi Yun piano
New Jersey Symphony

Sergei Rachmaninoff *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*

What is a rhapsody, and who was Paganini? Unlock the mystery of the musical puzzle in this roller coaster ride for piano and orchestra, demonstrated by the extraordinary talent of Tony Siqi Yun.

Inspired by Leonard Bernstein's masterful way of putting young audiences at the center of music-making, this interactive concert is presented in a relaxed format and features inside tips, listening cues, and fun facts that make for the perfect Saturday afternoon family outing!

This will be a Relaxed Performance, designed to accommodate the differing needs of our patrons of all abilities, including individuals with autism, sensory sensitivities, or cognitive and physical differences. This concert supports the New Jersey Symphony's mission to make orchestral music accessible to all by removing barriers often found in traditional concert settings. Audience members are encouraged to enter and exit the concert hall as needed throughout the performance and bring comfort items like sensory tools or stuffed animals that will aid in enhancing your musical experience! Accommodations such as large-print programs, sensory guides, a relaxation room, and more are also available.

For more information about Relaxed Performances and what to expect, click here.

Please note: If you are someone who prefers silence when you are enjoying a concert, this performance may not be the best fit for you. There may be movement, vocalizations, and other sounds throughout the hall. The shared expectation for all attendees is to help foster a warm, non-judgmental, and accepting atmosphere for everyone.

This New Jersey Symphony Family Concert is presented in NJPAC's Prudential Hall.

Projections and slides for this concert are produced by Concert Theatre Works.

2027 Lunar New Year Celebration

Celebration of the Year of the Goat

Newark → Saturday, Jan 30, 7:30 pm

Naomi Woo conductor
Sophia Liu piano
Peking University Alumni Chorus | Emma Ge Yu, director
Starry Arts Children's Chorus | Rebecca Shen, director
Edison Chinese School Lion Dance Team
New Jersey Symphony

Naomi Woo, Assistant Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra, leads a festive evening that unites symphonic works, choral music, and dance. Experience amazing talent, vibrant energy, and a grand spectacle designed to delight audiences of all ages—a joyous celebration of renewal and community.

Gil Shaham Plays Dvořák

New Jersey Symphony Classical

Newark → Thursday, Feb 18, 1:30 pm
Red Bank → Saturday, Feb 20, 7:30 pm
Morristown → Sunday, Feb 21, 2 pm

Xian Zhang conductor
Gil Shaham violin
New Jersey Symphony

Johannes Brahms Symphony No. 3
Dvořák called this symphony Brahms' most beautiful. A deeply personal work, its autumnal harmonies embody the composer's personal motto, "free, but happy." Orchestral musicians regularly call Brahms the most satisfying composer to play—with this masterpiece, it's easy to hear why.

Antonín Dvořák Violin Concerto
Full of folk flavor and rustic rhythms, Dvořák's only violin concerto is fiendishly difficult. "A virtuoso and a player of deeply intense sincerity" (*The New York Times*), Gil Shaham makes it sound easy.

Antonín Dvořák *Carnival* Overture
A musical celebration of life and all its joys and possibilities, this delightful bonbon of an overture is the perfect dessert at the end of our program.

Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl in Concert

New Jersey Symphony at the Movies

Red Bank → Friday, Feb 26, 7:30 pm
Newark → Saturday, Feb 27, 7:30 pm
New Brunswick → Sunday, Feb 28, 2 pm

Lawrence Loh conductor
New Jersey Symphony

This fantasy swashbuckler film follows pirate Jack Sparrow and the blacksmith Will Turner as they attempt to rescue the kidnapped Elizabeth Swann. The trio encounters Captain Barbossa and the Black Pearl crew who are afflicted by a supernatural curse. Klaus Badelt's score—performed live to picture by the New Jersey Symphony—thrums with excitement and adventure.

Presentation licensed by Disney Concerts. © All rights reserved. Rated PG-13

The February 28 concert is presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.

Batman Returns in Concert

35th Anniversary Concert | New Jersey Symphony at the Movies

Newark → Saturday, Mar 6, 8 pm

New Jersey Symphony

Grab your superhero cape and come out to see *Batman Returns* in Concert (PG-13). Watch Tim Burton's Oscar-nominated film on the big screen, accompanied by the New Jersey Symphony performing Danny Elfman's phenomenal score. It's a madcap adventure as Batman battles The Penguin and meets his match in Catwoman. The cast is stacked with greats: Michael Keaton, Michelle Pfeiffer, Danny DeVito and Christopher Walken. We'll meet you in Gotham City!

For tickets, go to njpac.org or call the NJPAC Box Office at 1.888.696.5722.

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Presented by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Joshua Bell Leads Beethoven

Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven's Passing

New Brunswick → Thursday, Mar 11, 7 pm
Princeton → Friday, Mar 12, 7:30 pm
Newark → Saturday, Mar 13, 7:30 pm
Newark → Sunday, Mar 14, 2 pm

Joshua Bell conductor & violin
New Jersey Symphony

Ludwig van Beethoven *Coriolan* Overture
Beethoven captures turmoil and drama like few other composers. In this harrowing overture to a play set in Ancient Rome, hear the march to battle and the plea for peace in conflict with one another. Which wins out? Join us and see.

Ludwig van Beethoven Violin Concerto
As if playing this difficult and profound work wasn't enough, Joshua Bell also conducts from the soloist position. Among Beethoven's most transcendent works, the violin soars and sings through the full range of human emotion.

Ludwig van Beethoven Symphony No. 7
Richard Wagner called this symphony "the apotheosis of the dance." Its slow movement was memorably used in the Oscar-winning film *The King's Speech*. Over 200 years later, Beethoven's masterpiece still moves and inspires.

The March 13 & 14 performances are presented in collaboration with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Mahler's Fifth Symphony

Gabriel Cabezas Performs the World Premiere of Allison Loggins-Hull's New Concerto

Newark → Friday, Mar 19, 7:30 pm
Red Bank → Saturday, Mar 20, 7:30 pm
Morristown → Sunday, Mar 21, 2 pm

Christoph König conductor
Gabriel Cabezas cello
New Jersey Symphony

Allison Loggins-Hull Cello Concerto (World Premiere, New Jersey Symphony Commission)
You never know what will happen at a world premiere! Be part of history when the first notes of Resident Artistic Partner Allison Loggins-Hull's new Cello Concerto resound in the hands of Gabriel Cabezas, a "prolific soloist with an ear for the new" (*The Washington Post*).

Gustav Mahler Symphony No. 5
This 1902 masterpiece topped the streaming charts in 2023 when it was featured in the Academy Award-

nominated film *Tár*. It's a journey from darkness to light, sometimes terrifying, sometimes tender—always epic.

Xian Zhang Conducts Mozart

Principal Timpanist Gregory LaRosa Takes the Spotlight

Newark → Thursday, Apr 1, 1:30 pm
Newark → Sunday, Apr 4, 2 pm

Xian Zhang conductor
Gregory LaRosa timpani
New Jersey Symphony

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Symphony No. 29
Written when he was just 18 (and had already composed 28 symphonies!), this work from a boy genius has a brilliant maturity and is full of elan, wit, and the quintessential Mozartian spirit that continues to inspire.

Joseph Pereira *Virtù* - Concerto for Timpani and String Orchestra (East Coast Premiere, New Jersey Symphony Co-Commission)
Drumroll please! Principal Timpanist Gregory LaRosa joins his colleagues as soloist for the first time in this brand-new work, written just for him.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Symphony No. 41, "Jupiter"
Mozart's final symphony reaches levels of cosmic brilliance, especially in the thrilling finale about which the 19th-century commentator Aleksandr Ulïbïshev wrote, "One must hear this music to believe it possible."

Neruda Songs and Poulenc's *Gloria*

New Jersey Symphony Classical

Newark → Thursday, Apr 15, 1:30 pm
Newark → Saturday, Apr 17, 7:30 pm
New Brunswick → Sunday, Apr 18, 2 pm

Xian Zhang conductor
Liv Redpath soprano
J'Nai Bridges mezzo-soprano
Montclair State University Chorale | Heather J. Buchanan, Director
New Jersey Symphony

Peter Lieberson *Neruda Songs*
Written as a gift for his wife, the acclaimed mezzo-soprano Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, Peter Lieberson's Neruda Songs takes poetry of extraordinary beauty and makes it even more rapturous.

Francis Poulenc *Gloria*
A joyous choral celebration, Poulenc's music is both playful and exuberant—guaranteed to release endorphins!

Maurice Ravel Suite No. 2 from *Daphnis and Chloé*
Ravel's most ravishing piece (and that's saying quite a lot!), *Daphnis and Chloé* is an orchestral tour de force, giving every musician a true instrumental work out.

Dvořák's "New World" Symphony

Gabriela Montero Performs Her "Latin" Piano Concerto

Morristown → Thursday, Apr 29, 7 pm
Newark → Friday, Apr 30, 7:30 pm
Red Bank → Saturday, May 1, 7:30 pm
Newark → Sunday, May 2, 2 pm

Xian Zhang conductor
Gabriela Montero piano
New Jersey Symphony

Jean Sibelius *Karelia Overture*
Sibelius' music is quintessentially Finnish, with a warmth easily found beneath its initial chill. One of his first published works, this overture brims with nationalistic spirit and folksy charm.

Gabriela Montero Piano Concerto No. 1, "Latin"
A Venezuelan piano phenom brings pyrotechnics to her own concerto, a celebration of Latin America in her own words, "a chiaroscuro reflection on who we are as a continent, dark and light."

Antonín Dvořák Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"
The New Jersey Symphony won a GRAMMY for its brilliant recording of this work under previous Music Director Zdeněk Mácal. Now hear Xian Zhang's thrilling interpretation of this masterpiece, a musical postcard from Dvořák's American travels, including the famous tune "Goin' Home" hauntingly rendered by the English horn.

Xian Zhang Conducts Tchaikovsky

Featuring the East Coast Premiere of Steven Mackey's Concerto for Orchestra

Princeton → Friday, May 14, 7:30 pm
Newark → Saturday, May 15, 7:30 pm
New Brunswick → Sunday, May 16, 2 pm

Xian Zhang conductor

New Jersey Symphony

Steven Mackey Concerto for Orchestra (East Coast Premiere, New Jersey Symphony Co-Commission)
Electric guitarist, alpine skier, and Professor of Music at Princeton University, Steven Mackey is a true local legend and Renaissance man. His music is whimsical, rhythmic, joyful, and always unpredictable. Be among the first to hear his latest creation, written especially for the virtuosity of the New Jersey Symphony musicians.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4
Xian Zhang's Tchaikovsky performances have become the stuff of legend—she wrings every ounce of passion and drama from this well-loved score.

Discover Tchaikovsky

New Jersey Symphony Family Concert

Newark → Saturday, May 15, 2 pm

Xian Zhang conductor
Bill Barclay host
New Jersey Symphony

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4

Tchaikovsky was a great musical storyteller. Learn about the structure of his Fourth Symphony and what to listen for, from string plucking to folk songs, and a wide range of emotions expressed by different instruments.

Inspired by Leonard Bernstein's masterful way of putting young audiences at the center of music-making, this interactive concert is presented in a relaxed format and features inside tips, listening cues, and fun facts that make for the perfect Saturday afternoon family outing!

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Projections and slides for this concert are produced by Concert Theatre Works.

Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert

50th Anniversary Celebration | New Jersey Symphony at the Movies

Morristown → Thursday, May 20, 7 pm
Red Bank → Friday, May 21, 7:30 pm
Newark → Saturday, May 22, 7:30 pm
New Brunswick → Sunday, May 23, 2 pm

Nicholas Hersh conductor
New Jersey Symphony

Luke Skywalker begins a journey that will change the galaxy in Star Wars: A New Hope. Nineteen years after the formation of the Empire, Luke is thrust into the struggle of the Rebel Alliance when he meets Obi-Wan Kenobi, who has lived for years in seclusion on the desert planet of Tatooine. Obi-Wan begins Luke's Jedi training as Luke joins him on a daring mission to rescue the beautiful Rebel leader Princess Leia from the clutches of Darth Vader and the evil Empire.

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the film that started it all in concert, with the New Jersey Symphony performing John Williams' Oscar-winning score live to the complete film.

Presentation Licensed by Disney Concerts in association with Warner/Chappell Music.
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The May 23 concert is presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.

Season Finale: Ravel's *Boléro* with Xian Zhang

New Jersey Symphony Classical

Newark → Thursday, June 10, 1:30 pm
Princeton → Friday, June 11, 7:30 pm
Newark → Sunday, June 13, 2 pm

Xian Zhang conductor
Pablo Sáinz Villegas guitar
New Jersey Symphony

Leonard Bernstein Overture to *Candide*
Full of glitter and gaiety, Bernstein's effervescent overture exudes joy and optimism—the best of all possible

worlds.

Joaquín Rodrigo *Concierto de Aranjuez*
The pinnacle of the guitar repertoire, Rodrigo's beloved concerto transports the listener to the heart of historic Spain, capturing, in the composer's words, "the fragrance of magnolias, the singing of birds, and the gushing of fountains."

Alberto Ginastera Four Dances from *Estancia*
Argentina's leading composer, Alberto Ginastera, wrote *Estancia* soon after he met Aaron Copland. This extraordinary ballet score is full of folk character, driving rhythms, and a final dance that is among the most ecstatic moments in the orchestral repertoire.

Maurice Ravel *Boléro*
From the nearly imperceptible tap of a snare drum to its exhilarating climax, the slow burn crescendo of Boléro grabs hold of audiences and refuses to let go. There's nothing like hearing it live!