

# NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## New Jersey Symphony Presents *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi in Concert*

**Concert Features Composer John Williams' Score Performed Live to Film by the New Jersey Symphony**

Newark, NJ – The New Jersey Symphony will present *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi in Concert* with composer John Williams' venerated score performed live to the film. Conductor Nicholas Hersh will lead New Jersey Symphony in all four performances:

- Thursday, April 4 at 7:30 pm at Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown
- Friday, April 5 at 8 pm at Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank
- Saturday, April 6 at 8 pm at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick
- Sunday, April 7 at 3 pm at New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

Since the release of the first Star Wars movie over 45 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 film and its RIAA® gold-certified soundtrack feature eleven score cues created by legendary Academy Award® and GRAMMY® Award-winning composer, John Williams.

As the Empire prepares to crush the Rebellion with a more powerful Death Star, the Rebel Fleet counters with a massive attack on the space station. Luke Skywalker confronts Darth Vader in a final climactic duel.

The presentation is licensed by Disney Concerts.

***Star Wars: Return of the Jedi in Concert***  
**New Jersey Symphony at the Movies**

**Nicholas Hersh** conductor  
**New Jersey Symphony**

**Morristown** → Thursday, April 4, 2024, 7:30 pm Mayo Performing Arts Center  
**Red Bank** → Friday, April 5, 2024, 8 pm Count Basie Center for the Arts  
**New Brunswick** → Saturday, April 6, 2024, 8 pm State Theatre New Jersey  
**Newark** → Sunday, April 7, 2024, 3 pm New Jersey Performing Arts Center

More information on concerts and tickets: [njsymphony.org/events](https://njsymphony.org/events)

### About 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, choruses 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 that range from instrumental-only symphonic performances to multimedia productions featuring live vocalists and choirs. Featuring concerts from the largest movie franchises in the world—from Walt Disney Pictures, Walt Disney Animation Studios, Marvel Studios, Lucasfilm, Pixar and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Studios—current titles include the *Star Wars* Film Concert Series, *Toy Story*, *Aladdin*, *Disney Princess – The Concert*, *Coco*, *The Lion King*, *Up*, *Disney Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* and *The Muppet Christmas Carol*.

### New Jersey Symphony

The Emmy and Grammy Award-winning New Jersey Symphony is redefining what it means to be a nationally leading, relevant orchestra in the 21st century. The Symphony is renewing its deeply rooted commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion by championing new, and often local, artists; engaging audiences for whom the inspiring depth and breadth of classical music will be a new experience; and incorporating the broadest possible representation in all aspects of our organization—all to better reflect and serve our vibrant communities. Since 2021, Music Director Xian Zhang has worked together with composer, violinist, educator and social-justice advocate Daniel Bernard Roumain, the orchestra's Resident Artistic Catalyst, to offer programming that connects with diverse communities in Newark and throughout New Jersey.

Internationally renowned Chinese American conductor Xian Zhang began her tenure as the New Jersey Symphony's current Music Director in 2016. Since her arrival at the New Jersey Symphony, Zhang has revitalized programming with an industry-leading commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in mainstage concerts. In its second century of bringing concerts to the people of New Jersey, the Symphony will present audience favorites in 2023–24 including Dvorak's "New World" Symphony, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, violinist Joshua Bell leading the orchestra in Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto and pianist Daniil Trifonov playing Gershwin's Concerto in F. New Jersey Symphony co-commissions include

works by internationally-renowned living composers: Anna Clyne's *ATLAS* and Jessie Montgomery's *Snapshots*. Composers Rob Kapilow and Daniel Bernard Roumain will present world premieres.

For more information about the New Jersey Symphony, visit [www.njsymphony.org](http://www.njsymphony.org) or email [information@njsymphony.org](mailto:information@njsymphony.org). Tickets are available for purchase by phone 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or on the Orchestra's website.

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Email: [information@njsymphony.org](mailto:information@njsymphony.org)

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**Press Contact**

Geoffrey Anderson

Vice President of Marketing & External Affairs

New Jersey Symphony

973.735.1713

[ganderson@njsymphony.org](mailto:ganderson@njsymphony.org)

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