

# NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **New Jersey Symphony presents *Star Wars: The Force Awakens in Concert***

**Concert features composer John Williams' score performed live to  
film by New Jersey Symphony  
Conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos**

**April 9–10 & 12–13, 2025**

NEWARK, NJ—New Jersey Symphony will present *Star Wars: The Force Awakens in Concert* brought to life by composer John Williams' GRAMMY® Award-winning score performed live to the film. The concert will be led by conductor Constantine Kitsopoulos on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 7:30 pm, at Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank; Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 7:30 pm, at Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown; Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 8 pm, at New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark; and Sunday, April 13, at 3 pm, at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick. For more information go to, [njsymphony.org/events](https://njsymphony.org/events).

In *Star Wars: The Force Awakens in Concert*, the GRAMMY®-winning soundtrack by legendary composer John Williams will be performed along to the Oscar-nominated film to thrilling effect in a live concert experience.

Thirty years since the destruction of the second Death Star, the sinister First Order, commanded by the mysterious Snoke and apprentice Kylo Ren, rises from the ashes of the Empire. The Resistance, led by General Leia Organa, attempts to thwart the First Order's threat, but they're desperate for help. Rey, a desert scavenger, and Finn, an ex-stormtrooper, find themselves joining forces with Han Solo and Chewbacca in a perilous mission to return a BB-unit droid back to the Resistance with a map to Luke Skywalker.

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.

## **Star Wars: The Force Awakens in Concert**

### **New Jersey Symphony at the Movies**

**Constantine Kitsopoulos** conductor

**Red Bank** → Wednesday, April 9, 7:30 pm, Count Basie Center for the Arts

**Morristown** → Thursday, April 10, 7:30 pm, Mayo Performing Arts Center

**Newark** → Saturday, April 12, 8 pm, NJPAC

**New Brunswick** → Sunday, April 13, 3 pm, State Theatre New Jersey

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

### **About Constantine Kitsopoulos**

Constantine Kitsopoulos has established himself as a dynamic conductor known for his ability to work in many different genres and settings. He is equally at home with opera, symphonic repertoire, film with live orchestra, music theatre, and composition. His work has taken him worldwide, where he has conducted the major orchestras of North America, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, and the Tokyo Philharmonic.

In the 2024–25 season Kitsopoulos returns to the Vancouver Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Seattle Symphony, among others.

Highlights of previous seasons include engagements with the Dallas Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Houston Symphony, Toronto Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, and New York Philharmonic. Kitsopoulos also conducted Leonard Bernstein's *Mass and Candide* at Indiana University Opera Theatre.

Previously, Kitsopoulos' was music director of the Festival of the Arts Boca from 2010–23, general director of Chatham Opera between 2005–15. He was assistant chorus master at New York City Opera from 1984–89.

### **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 20th Century Studios—current titles include the *Star Wars* Film Concert Series, *Toy*

*Story, Disney Princess: The Concert, Coco, The Lion King, Up, Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas, The Muppet Christmas Carol, and Infinity Saga Concert Experience.*

### **About New Jersey Symphony**

New Jersey Symphony is a GRAMMY® and Emmy Award-winning orchestra. Under the direction of the Music Director Xian Zhang, the Symphony performs more than 55 concerts at mainstage venues across the state, including Newark, Princeton, New Brunswick, Red Bank, and Morristown, as well as schools and public spaces statewide. Programming at the Symphony reflects an unwavering commitment to diverse communities throughout the state, while providing students unparalleled opportunities to achieve musical excellence through its Youth Orchestra and other education programs. In 2024, the Symphony announced it would continue to deliver its statewide activities from a new, permanent office, rehearsal, and concert space in Jersey City, set to open in 2026. For more information about the New Jersey Symphony, visit our website at [njsymphony.org](https://njsymphony.org) or our newsroom for press releases and photos.

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