

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY PRESENTS *STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI IN CONCERT*

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

**Conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos
May 29–31, 2026**

NEWARK, NJ—New Jersey Symphony will present *Star Wars: The Last Jedi in Concert* brought to life by legendary composer John Williams' GRAMMY®-nominated score performed live to the film. The concert will be led by conductor Constantine Kitsopoulos on Friday, May 29, at 7:30 pm, at Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank; Saturday, May 30, at 7:30 pm, at New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark; and Sunday, May 31, at 2 pm, at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick. Tickets and more information at njsymphony.org.

Since the release of the first *Star Wars* movie almost 50 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 Academy Award®-nominated film and its RIAA® gold-certified soundtrack feature twenty score cues composed by the legendary Oscar® and GRAMMY®-winning Williams and is performed to thrilling effect in a live concert experience.

The Resistance is in desperate need of help as its freedom fighters are relentlessly pursued by the First Order. Hoping to be trained in the ways of the Force, Rey travels to a remote planet to recruit the legendary Luke Skywalker to the Resistance. Meanwhile, the First Order seeks to destroy the remnants of the Resistance and rule the galaxy unopposed. In Lucas film's *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, the Skywalker saga continues as the heroes of *The Force Awakens* join the galactic legends in an epic adventure that unlocks new mysteries of the Force and shocking revelations of the past.

Star Wars: The Last Jedi in Concert

New Jersey Symphony at the Movies

Constantine Kitsopoulos conductor

Red Bank → Friday, May 29, 7:30 pm, Count Basie Center for the Arts

Newark → Saturday, May 30, 7:30 pm, New Jersey Performing Arts Center

New Brunswick → Sunday, May 31, 2 pm, State Theatre New Jersey

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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.

The 2025–26 season will bring Maestro Kitsopoulos back for return engagements with the New York Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony, and New Jersey Symphony, among others. In the past two seasons, Maestro Kitsopoulos conducted return engagements with the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Pacific, New Jersey, Toronto, Detroit, Chicago, Santa Barbara, and San Francisco symphonies. Highlights of previous seasons include return engagements with the Dallas Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Houston Symphony, and Vancouver Symphony. Kitsopoulos also conducted Stephen Sondheim’s *Sweeney Todd*, and Leonard Bernstein’s *Mass* and *Candide* at Indiana University Opera Theatre.

In addition to Maestro Kitsopoulos’ engagements as guest conductor, he was Music Director of the Festival of the Arts Boca from 2010–23 and General Director of Chatham Opera between 2005–15. He was Assistant Chorus Master at New York City Opera from 1984–89.

Maestro Kitsopoulos’ has developed semi-staged productions of Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*, for which he has written a new translation, *Don Giovanni*, and *La bohème*. He has conducted IU Opera Theatre’s productions of *Mass*, *Falstaff*, *Die Fledermaus*, *A View from the Bridge*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *South Pacific*, *Oklahoma*, *The Music Man*, and *The Last Savage*.

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 Music Director Xian Zhang, the Symphony performs more than 55 mainstage concerts across the state at venues in Newark, Princeton, New Brunswick, Red Bank, and Morristown, as well as at 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 2027. For more information about New Jersey Symphony, visit our website at njsymphony.org or our [newsroom](#) for press releases and photos.

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New Jersey Symphony'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.

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The May 31 performance is presented in collaboration with State Theatre New Jersey.



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