

Ashland Symphony Orchestra presents
Michael Repper, Music Director and Conductor

BLOCKBUSTERS

THE MUSIC OF JOHN WILLIAMS

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Archer Auditorium

Olympic Fanfare and Theme [1984]

Commissioned by the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee

Raiders March [1981]

From the Paramount Motion Picture RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK

Excerpts from *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* [1977]

Theme from *Jurassic Park* [1993]

From the Universal Motion Picture JURASSIC PARK

Superman March [1978]

Flying Theme [1982]

From the Universal Picture E.T. (THE EXTRA TERRESTRIAL)

• • • Intermission • • •

Harry's Wondrous World [2001]

From HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE Suite for Orchestra

STAR WARS Suite for Orchestra [1977]

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OLYMPIC FANFARE AND THEME

Commissioned for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee

The *Olympic Fanfare and Theme* was written at the suggestion of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee and the event's producer David Wolper.

In addition to writing the fanfare, I was given the honor of conducting the first performance during the opening day ceremonies for the 1984 Summer Games, held at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. – *from the John Williams Signature Edition*

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RAIDERS MARCH

From the Paramount Motion Picture RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK

"The Raiders March" was written in 1981 for Steven Spielberg's production of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

I created the march as an "adventure" theme to be associated with Indiana Jones, the colorful hero of the film, played so brilliantly by actor Harrison Ford.

The success of this wonderful movie led to two sequels: *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. These films formed a trilogy which became one of the most successful action-film series in cinema history and we used the march as the central musical theme for all three episodes. The music was introduced at the beginning of the first film when Indiana made his initial escape from the pursuing villains and it was subsequently used as the musical accompaniment for all of his daring exploits.

Since its composition, I've had so much joy performing this piece in its original form, that I'm delighted that this edition has been made available. – *from the John Williams Signature Edition*

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Score and parts on loan from Springfield Symphony Orchestra, Springfield, OH.

Excerpts from CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND

Over the years, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* has remained one of my favorite Steven Spielberg films.

With its depiction of the long-awaited visit of the beautiful and loving extraterrestrials, the fascinating premonitions of the little boy, and the five-note musical motif used to communicate with our otherworldly guests, the film offered a rich and unusual canvas on which to present the music.

I'm indebted to Mr. Spielberg for the opportunity he offered me through this film, and am delighted to share this concert edition with those who may remember this exceptional film as fondly as I do. – *from the John Williams Signature Edition*

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Close Encounters of the Third Kind "Easter Eggs"

During the musical conversation sequence between the human technicians and the massive alien spacecraft, the mothership plays a rapid sequence of notes that fans and film buffs recognize as a hidden reference to the ominous two-note motif from *Jaws* (1975). The film also features a tiny model of R2-D2 (*Star Wars*) attached to the underside of the descending mothership.

During the end credits of *Jurassic Park*, when Steven Spielberg's name appears, Williams sneaks in a slightly modified version of the famous five-tone motif from *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

Theme from JURASSIC PARK

From the Universal Motion Picture JURASSIC PARK

In his highly successful book, *Jurassic Park*, Michael Crichton has, with flights of fancy and great writing skill, enabled us to imagine what the return of the great vertebrates of 150 million years ago might be like.

Steven Spielberg, in his 1993 film adaptation of the book, provided us a glimpse of the power and beauty of these fascinating creatures.

I enjoyed the challenge of trying to tell the film's story musically and while we can luxuriate in the magnificent sound produced by our modern orchestras, it's nevertheless tempting to imagine what the trumpeting of these great beasts of the distant past might have been like. – *from the John Williams Signature Edition*

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SUPERMAN MARCH

From SUPERMAN

Growing up in my generation meant that you avidly followed the exploits of Superman in the syndicated comic strips that regularly appeared in newspapers across the country. It was a time when Superman fired the imaginations of all of our youngsters, and I was no exception.

Many years later, when director Richard Donner asked me to compose the score for his feature-length film of *Superman*, I was thrilled. I truly felt that I was revisiting a formative part of my childhood.

I remember how excited I was when Mr. Donner showed me his wonderful film with actors Christopher Reeve and Margot Kidder flying high above the Statue of Liberty in one of the movie's many memorable moments. I began by writing this piece, which formed the basics of the musical score for the film.

The movie's great success wouldn't have been possible without Christopher Reeve who embodies every characteristic of what we imagined Superman to be. I would like to dedicate this concert edition to my friend Christopher, without whom this music would never have seen the light of day. – *from the John Williams Signature Edition, 2nd edition*

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FLYING THEME

From the Universal Picture E.T. (THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL)

In the film *E.T. (The Extra-Terrestrial)*, director Steven Spielberg gives us scene after scene during which we willingly “suspend” our “disbelief.” Toward the end of the film, Spielberg has the group of youngsters featured in the story mount their bicycles and hurry to take E.T. back to his spaceship and safety. They're hotly pursued by the local police, and a brilliant chase ensues.

The children accelerate their bikes to the point where gravity is neutralized...they reach “escape velocity” and majestically soar over the moon. Watching all of this, we accept it as reality and fly along for the ride.

Of the countless scenes I've scored in films, I think this one is perhaps my favorite of all. It continues to hold a very firm, fond and permanent place in my memory. – *from the John Williams Signature Edition*

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HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE – Harry's Wondrous World

Suite for Orchestra

The success of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series has been a heartwarming phenomenon to all those who love books.

The worldwide reception that these works have received added greatly to the sense of privilege that I felt when I was given the honor of composing the music for the film version of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

The story's imaginative array of wizards flying on broomsticks and mail-delivering owls, all occupying a wondrous world of magic, offered a unique canvas for music, and the prospect of sharing it with some part of the great army of readers who love these books is a great honor to me. – *from the John Williams Signature Edition*

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Score and parts on loan from Mansfield Symphony Orchestra, Mansfield, OH.

STAR WARS

Suite for Orchestra

During 1997 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the release of George Lucas' classic film *Star Wars*. All of us connected with this phenomenal movie have been greatly gratified to see an entire new generation of very young film-goers enjoy the *Star Wars* trilogy and relate so strongly to its story, characters, and music.

Also, I am personally delighted to have this new edition of the score available to orchestras and the public. It includes the "Imperial March" and "Yoda's Theme," both of which have not been available until this present printing

I have always felt privileged to have had the opportunity to compose music for these landmark films, and the ongoing interest in the films and their music has continued to be one of my greatest joys. – *from the John Williams Signature Edition*

From the LucasFilm Ltd. Production – A Twentieth Century Fox Release STAR WARS

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For information about John Williams, visit

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Saturday, October 17, 7:30 pm

Tickets available in the lobby or at

www.ashlandsymphony.org