13 June 2024 Sydney Opera House



THE MUSIC OF JOHN WILLIAMS







SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

PATRON Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC

Founded in 1932 by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra has evolved into one of the world's finest orchestras as Sydney has become one of the world's great cities. Resident at the iconic Sydney Opera House, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra also performs in venues throughout Sydney and regional New South Wales, and international tours to Europe, Asia and the USA have earned the Orchestra worldwide recognition for artistic excellence.

The Orchestra's first chief conductor was Sir Eugene Goossens, appointed in 1947; he was followed by Nicolai Malko, Dean Dixon, Moshe Atzmon, Willem van Otterloo, Louis Frémaux, Sir Charles Mackerras, Zdenêk Mácal, Stuart Challender, Edo de Waart and Gianluigi Gelmetti. Vladimir Ashkenazy was Principal Conductor from 2009 to 2013. followed by David Robertson as Chief Conductor from 2014 to 2019. Australian-born Simone Young commenced her role as Chief Conductor in 2022, a year in which the Orchestra made its return to a renewed Sydney Opera House Concert Hall. The Sydney Symphony Orchestra's concerts encompass masterpieces from the classical repertoire, music by some of the finest living composers, and collaborations with guest artists from all genres, reflecting the Orchestra's versatility and diverse appeal. Its award-winning education program is central to its commitment to the future of live symphonic music. and the Orchestra promotes the work of Australian composers through performances, recordings and its commissioning program.

PERFORMING IN THIS CONCERT

FIRST VIOLINS

Alexandra Osborne Associate Concertmaster

Lerida Delbridge

Assistant Concertmaster

Fiona Ziealer Assistant Concertmaster

Jennifer Booth

Brielle Clapson

Sophie Cole

Sercan Danis

Emily Long

Alexander Norton

Léone Ziegler

Robert Smith®

Benjamin Tjoa^o

Brian Hong* Jasmine Tan*

SECOND VIOLINS

Emma Jezek

Acting Associate Principal

Alice Bartsch

Victoria Bihun

Emma Hayes

Shuti Huang

Wendy Kong

Beniamin Li

Nicole Masters

Maia Verunica

Marcus Michelsen^o Emily Qin^o

Elizabeth Jones*

Marrianne Liu*

VIOLAS

Tobias Breider

Principal

Anne-Louise Comerford

Associate Principal

Sandro Costantino

Stuart Johnson

Leonid Volovelsky

Stephen Wright^o

Beth Condon* Andrew Jezek*

Neil Thompson* David Wicks*

CELLOS

Simon Cobcroft

Associate Principal

Leah Lynn

Assistant Principal

Timothy Nankervis Elizabeth Neville

Christopher Pidcock Adrian Wallis

Eliza Sdrauligo Paul Stender*

DOLIBLE BASSES

Kees Boersma Principal

David Campbell Dylan Holly

Steven Larson Richard Lvnn

Jaan Pallandi

FLUTES

Joshua Batty

Principal

Carolyn Harris

Katie Zagorskio* Guest Principal Piccolo

OBOES

Shefali Pryor

Acting Principal

Callum Hogan

Nicola Bell*

CLARINETS

Francesco Celata

Acting Principal

Christopher Tingay

Alexander Morris Principal Bass Clarinet

BASSOONS

Matt Ockenden*

Guest Principal

Fiona McNamara

Shelby MacRae*

Guest Principal Contrabassoon

HORNS

Johannes Denaler*

Guest Principal

Euan Harvey

Acting Principal Emily Newham^o

Acting Principal 3rd Horn

Marnie Sebire

Rachel Silver **TRUMPETS**

David Elton

Principal

Brent Grapes

Associate Principal

Cécile Glémot Anthony Heinrichs Alexandra Bieri*

TROMBONES

Scott Kinmont

Acting Principal Jordan Mattinson[†]

William Kinmont*

Christopher Harris Principal Bass Trombone

TUBA

Edwin Diefes* Guest Principal

TIMPANI

Antoine Siguré Principal

PERCUSSION

Rebecca Lagos

Principal

Mark Robinson

Associate Principal

Timpani/Section

Percussion

Timothy Constable

Gabriel Fischer* **Brian Nivon***

Blake Roden*

HARP

Natalie Wong^o Acting Principal Harp

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Susanne Powell* Guest Principal Piano

Bold Principal

* Guest Musician ^o Contract Musician

† Sydney Symphony Fellow

2024 CONCERT SEASON

SYDNEY SYMPHONY PRESENTS

Thursday 13 June, 12.30pm

Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House

THE MUSIC OF JOHN WILLIAMS

ICONIC FILM SCORES LIVE IN CONCERT

NICHOLAS BUC conductor

ART OF THE SCORE
DAN GOLDING host
ANDREW POGSON host

JOHN WILLIAMS (born 1932)

Superman (1978)

March

Jaws (1975)

The Shark Theme

Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)

March

Jurassic Park (1993)

Theme

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (2001)

Hedwig's Theme

E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982)

Flying Theme

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back (1980)

The Imperial March

Estimated duration

The concert will run for approximately 1 hour.

Cover image

By Rebecca Shaw

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Des O'Neil – aFX Global

Lighting

Matthew Tunchon – Silver Bullets Projects

Produced in association with

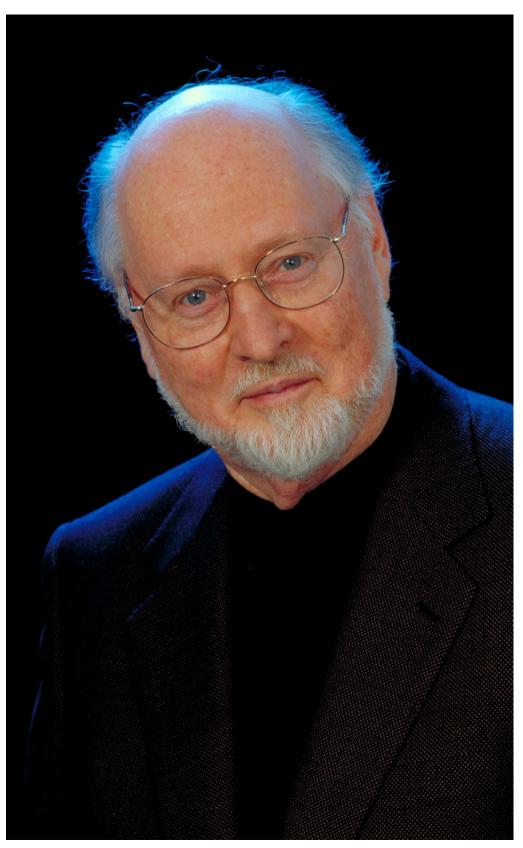
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John Williams. Photo courtesy LucasFilm.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

There is no person who has shaped the way we hear the movies more than John Williams. That means that when we talk about his music, his impact and his influence, what might for others seem hyperbole or exaggeration are just plain and simple facts.

Did you know, for example, that Williams is the second-most nominated human at the Academy Awards in any category, with well more than 50 Oscar nominations to his name? He ranks behind only Walt Disney himself in terms of sheer numbers and sustained achievement. His career has witnessed lifetimes of change at the movies.

When John Williams attended his first Academy Awards ceremony as a nominee, The Graduate was up for Best Picture, while the awards for Best Cinematography – one for black and white pictures and one for those in more expensive colour – had been merged into a single category for the first time. Seven decades later and the movies have seen trends come and go, as well as the epochal events of digital technology and a pandemic – but still, there was John Williams in 2024, breaking his own record as the oldest nominee in any category.

Such a claim seems almost absurd, but there is also a good argument to be made that John Williams may well be the most widely heard composer in history. Though Mozart or Beethoven have a few centuries head start, what great concert hall composer can compete with the power of the twentieth century's great mass artform, the cinema? John Williams has certainly been its chief musical envoy. Between 1970 and 1990, the yearly box office was topped by a film with music by Williams every second year, an absolute golden run that included Jaws, Star Wars, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Superman, Raiders of the Lost Ark, E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial and Home Alone.

Even when adjusted for inflation, a full fifth of the top 100 films of all time at the North American box office have the John Williams touch. All this is simply to say that before you even journey to a concert hall like today, before you put on a CD of his music, before you ever opened Spotify to search for a soundtrack, you and millions like you around the world have already heard a John Williams composition. His music is in the very blood of our popular culture.

It may surprise you to learn, then, that the young John Williams did not have his sights set on the world of Mozart and Beethoven so much as Nat King Cole and Art Tatum. Williams was born to a jazzloving family – his father was a drummer who played with Raymond Scott – and for a while it looked like Williams might take the jazz world on, first as a member of the US Air Force Band in the 1950s, and then as the pianist-leader of the Johnny Williams big band.

However, after studying piano at Julliard with Rosina Lhévinne, 'it became clear that I could write better than I could play,' said Williams, and he moved to Los Angeles to become an orchestrator and session musician for the film studios. He gained an apprenticeship in the soundtrack in these years spent working for the likes of Henry Mancini and Elmer Bernstein. and his piano playing can be heard on Peter Gunn, To Kill a Mockingbird, and the 1960 film adaptation of West Side Story. He was composing, too, particularly for the television studios where his work for Gilligan's Island and Lost in Space proved invaluable experience.

ABOUT THE MUSIC



John Williams and Steven Spielberg at Williams' induction into the American Film Institute Hall of Fame, 2016.

Williams quickly began to write for the movies, and it would prove to be one of the most fruitful artistic relationships in the history of the medium. Though Williams' early work is full of eclectic and interesting credits – the jazz of *The Long Goodbye* (1973) and his klezmer-filled folk of his adaptation of *Fiddler on the Roof* (1971, his first Oscar) – he quickly found a niche as the musical voice of a prototypical style of blockbuster in the 1970s, films like *The Poseidon Adventure* (1972), *The Towering Inferno* (1974), and *Earthquake* (1974).

A young hotshot director called Steven Spielberg took note, and asked Williams if he might write music for his films. He did – for 29 films. Their second collaboration, Jaws (1975), remains one of the few movies on the planet with a theme tune hummable by almost anyone, anywhere. The very sound of a shark has become entwined with John Williams' foreboding two-note motif, much in the same way that serial killers or showers have taken on Bernard Herrmann's shrieking strings from Psycho (1960). Less popularly remembered, though, is the way that Williams also revived the Hollywood Golden Age sound with his music for Jaws: in among the tension and the drama there are little adventure-filled bursts of Korngold's Captain Blood (1935) and The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938). "I'm a very lucky man," said Williams. "If it weren't for the movies, no one would be able to write this kind of music anymore."

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Then came Star Wars (1977), perhaps the most perfect match for John Williams' nostalgic musical ability across his entire career. In the hands of director George Lucas, Star Wars was a deliberate throwback to the B-movie worlds of Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon. John Williams gave it music to match, and then some. It was Williams, too, who persuaded Lucas to abandon the idea of classical music, a la Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968), for a wholly original soundtrack: 'I did not want to hear a piece of Dvořák here, a piece of Tchaikovsky there, and a piece of Holst in another place.'

The melodies that Williams wrote for Star Wars (and its many sequels and prequels) endure even today as among his most beloved. From themes for the force, to Darth Vader, Yoda, and Princess Leia, Williams revived the technique of leitmotif at the movies, a musical melody associated with characters, places or ideas. In time, he became its master, too.

'These genuine, simple tunes are the hardest things to uncover, for any composer,' Williams told *The New Yorker*. Yet Williams has been better at this task than almost anyone else who has tried. For many, it seems impossible to imagine a world without the *Star Wars* main theme, or without that jaunty little tune for Indiana Jones.

'Without John Williams, bikes don't really fly,' said Spielberg as Williams was inducted in the American Film Institute Hall of Fame in 2016. 'Dinosaurs do not walk the earth.'

More than any award or achievement, what Williams has done for the movies across seven decades is perhaps his most insurmountable achievement of all. He has given them belief.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ART OF THE SCORE

Art of the Score is a Melbourne-based podcast that explores, demystifies and celebrates some of the greatest soundtracks of all time from the world of film, TV and video games. In each episode hosts Andrew Pogson, Dan Golding and Nicholas Buc check out a soundtrack they love, break down its main themes, explore what makes the score tick and hopefully impart their love of the world of soundtracks.

Art of the Score has enjoyed time in the iTunes Top 10, What's Hot and New & Noteworthy lists and is listened to by soundtrack geeks all around the world. Head on over to artofthescore.com.au for more nerdery and tomfoolery.

NICHOLAS BUC conductor

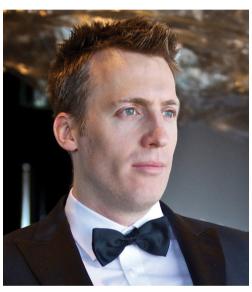
Nicholas Buc is an Award-winning composer, conductor and arranger.
As the recipient of the prestigious Brian May Scholarship, he completed a Masters degree in Scoring for Film and Multimedia at New York University, receiving the Elmer Bernstein Award for Film Scoring.

He recently completed work on the new Australian feature film *Slant*, starring Sigrid Thornton and Pia Miranda, which won Best Australian Feature at Monster Fest 2022. He also scored the Ukrainian documentary *Slava*, which won Best Short Film at Byron All Shorts Flickerfest 2023.

He has worked with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Nick Cave and Warren Ellis, Chris Botti, Amanda Palmer, Ben Folds and Australian pop sensation Tina Arena. He has written arrangements for Birds of Tokyo, Missy Higgins and Vera Blue as well as working on Junior MasterChef, The Voice Australia and the 2021 AFL Grand Final.

Nicholas is highly sought after as a conductor for live film concerts, having conducted the world premieres of Star Wars: The Last Jedi, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, The Lion King (2019), Beauty and the Beast (2017), Shrek 2 and Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2.

He is also the only person in the world to have conducted all three original Star Wars films in concert...in one day!



Nicholas Buc

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Dan Golding host

Associate Professor Dan Golding is Chair of Media and Communication at Swinburne University, the host of *Screen Sounds* on ABC Classic, and an awardwinning composer and writer.

Dan is the author of Star Wars After Lucas (University of Minnesota Press, 2019), and the co-author of Game Changers (Affirm Press, 2016). He also created the soundtrack for the BAFTA, DICE, and GDCA winning Untitled Goose Game (2019), which became the first game soundtrack to be nominated for an ARIA Award in history.

Other composing includes the soundtracks for *Push Me Pull You* (2016) and the *Frog Detective* series, for which his score for *The Haunted Island* (2018) won the APRA-AMCOS Australian Game Developer award for Best Music. Dan recently composed the theme for the ABC's flagship podcast, *ABC News Daily*. Find him on Instagram @dan.golding, or online at dangolding.com.

Andrew Pogson host

Andrew Pogson is a producer, director and jazz musician who has worked in the music industry for over 20 years. He is the founder and Creative Director of Concert Lab, a concert producing and production company, and was previously the Head of Presentations at the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

He has worked with artists such as Sting, Randy Newman, Tim Minchin, Ben Folds, Joe Hisaishi and Studio Ghibli, Kate Miller-Heidke and Flight Facilities, along with creating and producing world premieres with the MSO such as The Doctor Who Symphonic Spectacular, Video Games Unplugged, Babe in Concert, Symphonica featuring Armand Van Helden, The Film Music of Nick Cave & Warren Ellis and This Gaming Life with music comedy trio Tripod (where he also hosts their podcast Perfectly Good Podcast). Find him on Instagram @andrewipogson.



The Art of the Score: (L-R) Nicholas Buc, Andrew Pogson, Dan Golding.

SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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Andrew Haveron
Concertmaster
Vicki Olsson Chair

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Lerida Delbridge Assistant Concertmaster Simon Johnson Chair



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Claire Herrick Russell & Mary McMurray Chair



Georges Lentz



Emily Long
In memory of Dr Margot



Alexandra Mitchell



Alexander Norton



Anna Skálová



Léone Ziegler



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Kirsty Hilton Principal A/Prof Keith Ong & Dr Eileen Ong Chair



Marina Marsden Principal



Marianne Edwards Associate Principal Dr Rebecca Chin & Family Chair



Emma Jezek Assistant Principal



Alice Bartsch



Victoria Bihun



Rebecca Gill
Dr John Lam-Po-Tang
Chair, in memory of Reg &
Jeannette Lam-Po-Tang



Emma Hayes



Shuti Huang



Monique Irik



Wendy Kong



Benjamin Li



Nicole Masters Nora Goodridge OAM Chair



Maja Verunica

VIOLAS



Tobias Breider Principal Roslyn Packer Ac & Gretel Packer AM Chair



Anne-Louise Comerford Associate Principal White Family Chair



Justin Williams Assistant Principal L Alison Carr Chair



Sandro Costantino



Rosemary Curtin John & Jane Morschel Chair



Jane Hazelwood Bob & Julie Clampett Chair, in memory of Carolyn Clampett



Graham Hennings



Stuart Johnson



Justine Marsden



Felicity Tsai



Amanda Verner



Leonid Volovelsky

CELLOS



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Kaori Yamagami Principal



Simon Cobcroft Associate Principal



Leah Lynn Assistant Principal



Kristy Conrau



Fenella Gill



Timothy Nankervis



Elizabeth Neville Bob Magid & Ruth Magid Chair



Christopher Pidcock



Adrian Wallis

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Kees Boersma Principal Council Chair, with lead support from Brian Abel



Principal



David Campbell



Dylan Holly



Steven Larson



Richard Lynn



Jaan Pallandi



Benjamin Ward

FLUTES



Joshua Battv Principal



Emma Sholl Associate Principal Robert & Janet Constable Chair



Carolyn Harris Landa Family Chair, in memory of Dr Barry Landa



OBOES

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Shefali Prvor Acting Principal



Callum Hogan

COR ANGLAIS





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CLARINETS



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Christopher Tingay

BASS CLARINET



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BASSOONS



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HORNS



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BASS TROMBONE



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Rebecca Lagos Principal I Kallinikos Chair



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