



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[January 9, 2020]

Contacts: St. Louis Symphony Orchestra: Eric Dundon ericd@slo.org, 314-286-4134
National/International: Nikki Scandalios nikki@scandaliospr.com, 704-340-4094

***STAR WARS: EMPIRE STRIKES BACK* IN CONCERT TO FEATURE ICONIC SCORE PERFORMED
LIVE TO FILM**

**Concert features composer John Williams' Complete Score from *Star Wars: Empire Strikes Back*
performed live by St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, January 23-26, 2020**

(January 9, 2020, St. Louis, MO) – The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra will present *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* in Concert featuring screenings of the complete film with Oscar®-winning composer John Williams' musical score performed live to the film. Led by conductor Joshua Gersen, concerts are January 23-26, 2020.

Since the release of the first *Star Wars* movie over 40 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.

In the film, the battle for the galaxy intensifies in this thrilling fifth episode of the unfolding saga. As Imperial Forces launch an all-out attack on the Rebel Alliance, Han Solo (Harrison Ford) and Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) flee to Cloud City where they are captured by Darth Vader. Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) journeys to the mysterious, marshy planet of Dagobah, where the wise Jedi Master Yoda teaches the young hero the ways of the Force. Little does Luke know that all his Jedi training will be called upon so soon. A stunning revelation—and a seeming life-or-death duel with Darth Vader—await.

Composer John Williams has won five Academy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards, seven British Academy Film Awards, five Emmy Awards and 24 Grammy Awards. With 51 Academy Award nominations, Williams is the Academy's most nominated living person and the second most-nominated individual in history, after Walt Disney. In 2005, the American Film Institute selected Williams' score to 1977's *Star Wars: A New Hope* as the greatest American film score of all time. The soundtrack to *A New Hope* also was preserved by the Library of Congress in the National Recording Registry, for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

***STAR WARS: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK* IN CONCERT**

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 7:00pm

Friday, January 24, 2020, 7:00pm

Saturday, January 25, 2020, 7:00pm



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director



Sunday, January 26, 2020, 2:00pm
Powell Hall, 718 N. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

Joshua Gersen, conductor

Since 2010, the SLSO has hosted more than 150 Live at Powell Hall concerts: from movies like *Singin' in the Rain*, *Harry Potter*, and *Jurassic Park*, to tribute concerts and one-night-only performances with award-winning guests including Boyz II Men, Ben Folds, Mary Chapin Carpenter, and Idina Menzel. Special Guests this season include Ben Folds, plus a Tribute to Aretha Franklin. Upcoming film scores the SLSO performs live include *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1* (March 20-22, 2020) and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (May 16-17, 2020).

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back is produced under license by Disney Concerts in association with 20th Century Fox and Warner/Chappell Music. *STAR WARS* and related properties are trademarks and/or copyrights, in the United States and other countries, of Lucasfilm Ltd. and/or its affiliates. © & TM

Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased at slo.org or by calling the Box Office at 314-534-1700.

About the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

Celebrated as one of today's most exciting and enduring orchestras, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra is the second-oldest orchestra in the country, marking its 140th year with the 2019/2020 season and its first with Music Director Stéphane Denève. Widely considered one of the world's finest orchestras, the SLSO maintains its commitment to artistic excellence, educational impact, and community connections – all in service to its mission of enriching lives through the power of music.

The SLSO musical family also includes two resident choruses: the St. Louis Symphony Chorus, founded in 1976 by Music Director Jerzy Semkow; and the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus, an ensemble focused on the music of African-American and African cultures since 1994; and the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, founded by Conductor Laureate Leonard Slatkin in 1970.

In addition to its regular concert performances at Powell Hall, which has been the permanent home of the SLSO for more than 50 years, the orchestra is an integral part of the diverse and vibrant St. Louis community, presenting dozens of free education and community programs and performances throughout the region each year. It presents St. Louis Symphony Live at the Pulitzer, a four-program series at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation. The SLSO also serves as the resident orchestra for Opera Theatre Saint Louis, with the upcoming season marking the 43rd year of the partnership.

The Grammy Award-winning SLSO's impact beyond the St. Louis region is realized through weekly Saturday night concert broadcasts on St. Louis Public Radio, acclaimed recordings, and regular touring activity. A sought-after artistic partner by preeminent musicians and composers from across the globe, as well as by local and national organizations, the SLSO enjoys a long history of robust and



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

stéphane denève : music director



enduring artistic collaborations that have developed and deepened over the years.

Today, the SLSO builds on the institution's current momentum on all fronts, including artistic, financial, audience growth, and community impact, and looks toward the future with Stéphane Denève. Denève begins his tenure as the SLSO's 13th Music Director with the 19/20 season. For more information, visit slo.org.

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 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, and range from instrumental-only symphonic performances to multimedia productions featuring live vocalists and choir. Current titles include the *Star Wars* Film Concert Series (Episodes IV-VII), *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Fantasia*, *Pixar In Concert*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Alice In Wonderland*, *Frozen*, *Ratatouille*, *The Pirates of the Caribbean* series (Episodes I-IV), and *Silly Symphonies*, which last year collectively accounted for over 400 performances in many of the world's top concert venues, including Lincoln Center, Royal Albert Hall, Sydney Opera House, Tokyo Forum and the Hollywood Bowl. Numerous new concert packages and touring productions from Disney's portfolio of studios, including Disney's feature animation and live action studios, Pixar, Lucasfilm and Marvel, are currently in development.

#