



St. Louis Symphony  
Orchestra

stéphane denève : music director

19:20  
140th season

Joshua Gersen, conductor

Thursday, January 23, 2020, at 7:00PM

Friday, January 24, 2020, at 7:00PM

Saturday, January 25, 2020, at 7:00PM

Sunday, January 26, 2020, at 2:00PM

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*Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*  
Feature Film with Orchestra

**JOHN WILLIAMS**  
(b. 1932)

*Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*

*There will be one 25-minute intermission.*

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# *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*

## Film Synopsis

“You must feel the Force around you...”

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.

Star Wars Film Concert Series  
**Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back**

Twentieth Century Fox Presents  
A Lucasfilm Ltd. production

**Starring**

Mark Hamill  
Harrison Ford  
Carrie Fisher  
Billy Dee Williams  
Anthony Daniels

**Co-Starring**

David Prowse as Darth Vader  
Kenny Baker as R2-D2  
Peter Mayhew as Chewbacca  
Frank Oz as Yoda

**Directed by**

Irvin Kershner

**Produced by**

Gary Kurtz

**Screenplay by**

Leigh Brackett and Lawrence Kasdan

**Story by**

George Lucas

**Executive Producer**

George Lucas



Original Motion Picture [Disneymusicemporium.com](http://Disneymusicemporium.com)

**Star Wars Film Concert Series Production Credits**

President, Disney Music Group

Ken Bunt

SVP/GM, Disney Concerts  
Chip McLean

Music Preparation

Mark Graham

Business Affairs, Disney  
Concerts

Darryl Franklin

Supervising Technical Director  
Alex Levy – Epilogue Media

Matthew Voogt  
Joann Kane Music Service

Meg Ross

Jesenia Gallegos

Film Preparation

Ramiro Belgardt

Disney Music Library

Operations, Disney Concerts

Mae Crosby

Royd Haston

Non-Theatrical Sales,  
Twentieth Century Fox  
Julian Levin

Business Affairs, Lucasfilm  
Rhonda Hjort  
Chris Holm

Business Affairs, Warner-  
Chappell  
Scott McDowell



## **JOSHUA GERSEN**

Joshua Gersen recently concluded his tenure as the Assistant Conductor of the New York Philharmonic, where he most notably made his subscription debut in 2017 on hours' notice to critical acclaim filling in for Semyon Bychkov.

Previous conducting posts include the Music Director of the New York Youth Symphony, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Conducting Fellow of the New World Symphony, where he served as the assistant conductor to the symphony's Artistic Director Michael Tilson Thomas. There, he led the orchestra in various subscription, education, and family concerts, including the orchestra's renowned PULSE concert series. He made his conducting debut with the San Francisco Symphony in the fall of 2013 and has been invited back numerous times to conduct a variety of concerts, most recently replacing Tilson Thomas on short notice for a subscription series in June.

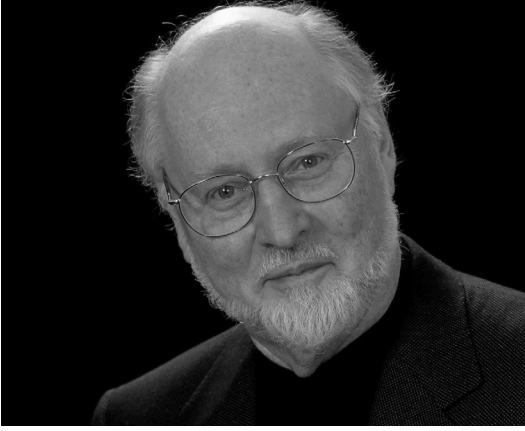
Other recent guest conducting appearances include performances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Hannover Opera, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, San Antonio Symphony Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony Orchestra, and the Colorado Music Festival.

Gersen is the recipient of a 2015 and 2016 Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award, the winner of the Aspen Music Festival's prestigious 2011 Aspen Conducting Prize, and the 2010 Robert J. Harth Conducting Prize, and as a result served as the festival's assistant conductor for the 2012 summer season under Robert Spano.

Also a prolific composer, both Gersen's String Quartet No. 1 and Fantasy for Chamber Orchestra have been premiered in New England Conservatory's celebrated Jordan Hall. He has had works performed by the New Mexico Symphony and the Greater Bridgeport Symphony. His work as a composer has also led to an interest in conducting contemporary music. He has conducted several world premieres of new works by young composers with the New York Youth Symphony as part of their esteemed First Music Program, and with the New York Philharmonic as part of their Very Young Composers program, and has also collaborated with many prominent contemporary composers including John Adams, Steve Reich, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Christopher Rouse, Steven Mackey, Mason Bates, and Michael Gandolfi. As principal conductor of the Ojai Music

Festival in 2013, Gersen led numerous performances by celebrated American composers such as Lou Harrison and John Luther Adams.

Gersen made his conducting debut at age 11 with the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestra and his professional conducting debut five years later when he led the Greater Bridgeport Symphony in a performance of his own composition, *A Symphonic Movement*. Gersen is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied conducting with the esteemed Otto Werner Mueller, and of the New England Conservatory of Music, where he studied composition with Michael Gandolfi. As an educator, Gersen has worked often with students and ensembles at the Juilliard School, the Manhattan School of Music, Boston University, and the Curtis Institute of Music. He is the interim Director of Orchestras at Boston University for the 2019-20 school year.



## JOHN WILLIAMS

In a career spanning more than five decades, John Williams has become one of America's most accomplished and successful composers for film and for the concert stage, and he remains one of our nation's most distinguished and contributive musical voices. He has composed the music for more than 100 films, including all nine *Star Wars* films, the first three *Harry Potter* films, *Superman*, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, *Home Alone*, and *The Book Thief*. His 45-year artistic partnership with director Steven Spielberg has resulted in many of Hollywood's most acclaimed and successful films, including *Schindler's List*, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, *Jaws*, *Jurassic Park*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, the *Indiana Jones* films, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Lincoln*, *The BFG*, and *The Post*. Williams has composed themes for four Olympic Games. He served as music director of the Boston Pops Orchestra for fourteen seasons and remains its Laureate Conductor. He has composed numerous works for the concert stage including two symphonies and concertos commissioned by many of America's most prominent orchestras. Williams has received five Academy Awards and 51 Oscar nominations (making him the second-most nominated person in the history of the Oscars), seven British Academy Awards, 24 Grammys, four Golden Globes, and five Emmys. In 2003, he received the Olympic Order (the IOC's highest honor) for his contributions to the Olympic movement. In 2004, he received the Kennedy Center Honors, and in 2009 he received the National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists by the U.S. Government. In 2016 he received the 44th Life Achievement Award from the American Film Institute—the first time a composer was honored with this award.



# Symphony Volunteer Association

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Join the Symphony Volunteer Association (SVA) to support the world-renowned St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Play a special part in projects including Picture the Music, Express the Music, and Instrument Playground, a traveling hands-on experience of musical instruments presented at schools and other community venues. Serve as a Powell Hall tour guide, assist with Youth Orchestra auditions, or complete "one and done" projects, providing much appreciated help to SLSO staff. Enjoy member-only events and small group experiences with the musicians.

Most of all, experience the reward of working with other SVA members as we share our love of the SLSO with the St. Louis community.

For additional information contact the SVA Office at **314-286-4153** or **[slo.org/volunteer](http://slo.org/volunteer)**.