

**CONCERT PROGRAM**  
**March 27-29, 2015**

**LIVE AT POWELL HALL**

Justin Freer, conductor

**THE GODFATHER**

**ROTA** *The Godfather*

*There will be one 25-minute intermission.*



The Godfather Live Produced by CineConcerts



Justin Freer, President  
Brady Beaubien, Vice President  
Jennifer Wootton, Production Executive  
David Hoffis, Sound Engineer and Production Supervisor  
Ed Kalnins, Video Playback

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## THE GODFATHER'S MUSICAL GODFATHER: NINO ROTA

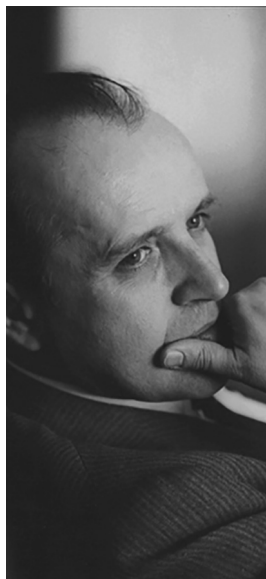
Nino Rota (1911-1979) created some of the most recognizable music in film history. The buoyant bumpa-da-bumpa-da-bumpa-da street music or clown tunes heard in Federico Fellini movies, or the melancholy themes that run through those same films—*La Strada*, *La Dolce Vita*, *The Clowns*. The “Love Theme” to *The Godfather*, eventually was made into a popular Top-10 song in the '70s, “Speak Softly Love.” The melody functions as so many of Rota’s do. As one critic described them, Rota’s melodies seem drenched in memories from the first moment we hear them. Rota defined Italian sound in film—antic, moody, quintessentially romantic, with dark forces brooding within the music.

Rota was born in Milan and started composing at age eight. He went on to study at conservatories in Milan and Rome, and came to the United States at age 20 to study at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. He returned to Italy, and by the time he met Fellini he had already scored more than 40 films. Fellini was awestruck when he met Rota, who was waiting for a bus in Rome. The director asked the composer what bus he was waiting for. Rota told him, and Fellini informed him that he was at the wrong stop. Then, the bus arrived. Magic happened, and continued to happen between the artists for decades.

Rota was in his 60s when he wrote the score for *The Godfather*. You hear a master at his craft: he teases out suspense; he introduces subtle comedy; he brings devastation down like thunder.

The American Film Institute ranks *The Godfather* score as No. 5 in film history. Rota went on to collaborate with director Francis Ford Coppola’s father, Carmine Coppola, on *The Godfather II*, for which the composers received Academy Awards.

Nino Rota died in Rome at age 67. “When I’m creating at the piano, I tend to feel happy,” he once said, “but—the eternal dilemma—how can we be happy amid the unhappiness of others? I’d do everything I could to give everyone a moment of happiness. That’s what’s at the heart of my music.”



Nino Rota

### Selected Filmography

*War and Peace*  
*La Dolce Vita*  
*La Strada*  
*The Clowns*  
*Roma*  
*Casanova*  
*The Leopard*  
*8 1/2*  
*Romeo and Juliet*  
*The Taming of the Shrew*  
*The Godfather I, II, & III* (the third film used Rota’s music posthumously)



Justin Freer conducted the Symphony's performances of *Gladiator* in October.

## JUSTIN FREER

American composer/conductor Justin Freer was born and raised in Huntington Beach, California. He has established himself as one of the West Coast's most exciting musical voices and has quickly become a highly sought-after conductor and producer of film-music concerts around the world. Freer began his formal studies on trumpet, playing in wind ensembles, marching bands, and community orchestras. He quickly turned to piano and composition and composed his first work for wind ensemble at age eleven. Continuing trumpet performance while studying piano and composition, Freer saw multiple wind ensemble, choral, and big band performances of his music while still a teenager and gave his professional conducting debut at age sixteen.

Continually composing for various different mediums, he has written music for world-renowned trumpeters Doc Severinson and Jens Lindemann and continues to be in demand as a composer and conductor for everything from orchestral literature to chamber music at some of the most well-known concert halls, festivals, music clinics, and conventions in the world. He has served as composer for several independent films and has written motion picture advertising music for some of 20th Century Fox Studios' biggest campaigns including *Avatar*, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, *Dragonball Evolution*, and *Aliens in the Attic*. As a conductor Freer has appeared with some of the most well-known orchestras in the world including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, and Sydney Symphony Orchestra. In upcoming seasons he will guest conduct the New York Philharmonic as well as the orchestras of Chicago, Dublin, London, Paris, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Sydney, Toronto, and others.

Justin Freer earned both his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Music Composition from UCLA, where his principal composition teachers included Paul Chihara and Ian Krouse. In addition, he was mentored by legendary composer/conductor Jerry Goldsmith.

# LIVE AT POWELL HALL: DISTANT WORLDS: MUSIC OF FINAL FANTASY



**MAY 15-16**  
Arnie Roth, conductor

Includes music from all 14 games and an HD video presentation of exclusive content from game developers SQUARE ENIX. Experience the entertainment phenomenon that has thrilled audiences all over the globe.

LIVE AT POWELL HALL:  
LOST IN SPACE: STAR WARS & MORE



**MAY 31**

Steven Jarvi, conductor

The St. Louis Symphony takes you on a cosmic ride to distant galaxies performing music inspired by outer space, including a newly released suite to John Williams' score from the original *Star Wars* trilogy, as well as selections from *Star Trek* and *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

## AUDIENCE INFORMATION

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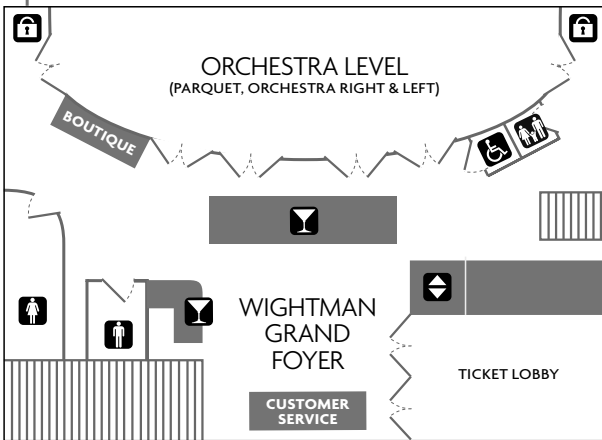
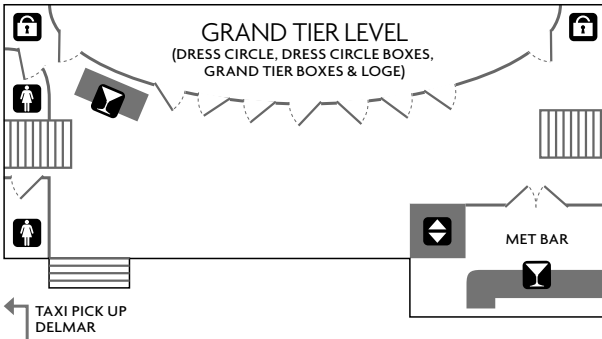
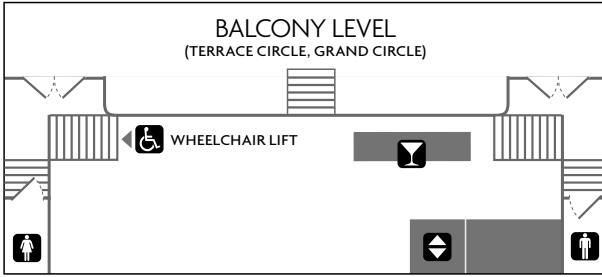
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# POWELL HALL



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