

PRESS RELEASE
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HK Phil's *Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert* & *Star Wars: Empire Strikes Back in Concert* to Feature Iconic Score Performed Live to Film

Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert (4 & 6 July)

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert (5 & 6 July)

[28 June 2019, Hong Kong] The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) will present the *Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert* and *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert* featuring screenings of the complete films with Oscar®-winning composer John Williams' musical scores performed live to the films. The concert will be led by acclaimed conductor [Benjamin Northey](#). Experience the Force at the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall** on **4 to 6 July**. A dazzling conclusion to the HK Phil's action-packed 2018/19 season!

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.

Fans will be able to experience the scope and grandeur of these beloved films in a live symphonic concert experience, when the *Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert* debuts on 4 July, while *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert* debuts on 5 July.

Legendary composer Williams is well known for scoring all eight of the *Star Wars* saga films to date, beginning with 1977's *Star Wars: A New Hope* for which he earned an Academy Award® for Best Original Score. His scores for *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Return of the Jedi*, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* and most recently *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* were each nominated for Best Original Score.

Williams has won five Academy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards, seven British Academy Film Awards, five Emmy Awards and 23 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 *Star Wars: A New Hope* also was preserved by the Library of Congress in the National Recording Registry, for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant". Williams was inducted into the Hollywood Bowl's Hall of Fame in 2000, and he received the Kennedy Center Honors in 2004, the National Medal of Arts in 2009, and the AFI Life Achievement Award in 2016. Williams has composed the scores for eight of the top 20 highest-grossing films at the U.S. box office (adjusted for inflation).

Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert (4 & 6 July)

"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...."

Set 30 years after *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*, *Star Wars: A New Hope*, the fourth episode of the saga, returns to the desert planet of Tatooine. A young Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) begins to discover his destiny when, searching for a lost droid, he is saved by reclusive Jedi Obi-Wan Kenobi (Alec Guinness). A civil war rages in the galaxy, and Rebel forces struggle against the evil Galactic Empire, Luke and Obi-Wan enlist the aid of hotshot pilot, Han Solo (Harrison Ford). Joined by the quirky droid duo R2-D2 and C-3PO, the unlikely team sets out to rescue Rebel leader Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) and make use of the stolen plans to destroy the Empire's ultimate weapon.

In a legendary confrontation, the rogue group mounts an attack against the Death Star for a climactic battle with the evil Sith Lord Darth Vader.

The musical score is a major element in the Star Wars saga. Stunning as in the opening of the film is, it is clear that John Williams transforms it with his blazing fanfare. While the cinematic classic inspired audiences the world over, the music plays an integral role in the experience, binding the galaxy together. The themes serve as narrative and introduction to the characters. The legendary scores will be played by the HK Phil along with the complete movie. Join the HK Phil and hear afresh this much-admired music.

Star Wars fans should not miss this chance to experience the scope and grandeur of the beloved *Star Wars* film in a live symphonic concert experience!

4 Jul performance is sponsored by American Express

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Silver Screen: Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert will be held on **4 & 6 Jul (Thurs) 8PM and (Sat) 3PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets priced: HK\$780, \$580, \$480 and \$380 are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert (5 & 6 July)

“This movie is such a masterpiece, the unmasking of Darth Vader remains a seminal moment in cinematic history. John Williams once again enhances the drama through his perfect use of music and dramaturgy. I am beyond excited to conduct this score!”

--- Benjamin Northey, conductor

“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.

Music in Star Wars is as important as the movie itself. Arguably the most recognizable and iconic theme in cinema history, legendary composer John Williams evolved the recurring motives from the previous episode with enriching textures as the saga is presented. Interesting, they are from classical works! The ominous “Imperial March” that marks Darth Vader’s entry, is in fact inspired by Gustav Holst’s *The Planets Suite*; the romantic Han and Leia Theme hints to Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto in D. Meanwhile, realise the array of percussion instruments employed in his scores, such as a variety of drums, bells and cymbals showcase Williams’ ground-breaking music-making!

Join the HK Phil for a swashbuckling adventure with Luke Skywalker heads his mission!

5 Jul performance is sponsored by American Express

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Silver Screen: Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert will be held on **5 & 6 Jul (Fri & Sat), 8PM** in the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. Tickets priced: HK\$780, \$580, \$480, \$380 are available at URBTIX. For enquiries, please call +852 2721 2332 or visit hkphil.org.

Artists

Benjamin Northey, conductor [\[full biography\]](#)

Benjamin Northey has rapidly emerged as one of Australia's leading musical figures. Since 2011 he has held the position of Associate Conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and was appointed Chief Conductor of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra in 2015. He has also conducted the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia, New Zealand and Christchurch Symphony Orchestras, Auckland Philharmonia and the Southbank Sinfonia of London.

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.

STAR WARS: A NEW HOPE IN CONCERT

4 & 6 | 7 | 2019

THU 8PM & SAT 3PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$780 \$580 \$480 \$380

Tickets are now available at URBTIX.

For ages 6 and above

4 Jul performance is sponsored by American Express

Programme

Star Wars IV – A New Hope

Complete film screening (English with Chinese subtitles) with live orchestra.

STAR WARS: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK IN CONCERT

5 & 6 | 7 | 2019

FRI & SAT 8PM

Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

HK\$780 \$580 \$480 \$380

Tickets are now available at URBTIX.

For ages 6 and above

5 Jul performance is sponsored by American Express

Programme

Star Wars V – The Empire Strikes Back

Complete film screening (English with Chinese subtitles) with live orchestra

Artists

[Benjamin Northey](#)

conductor

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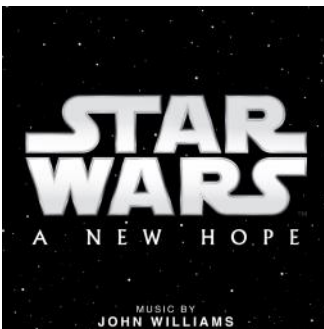


Benjamin Northey



Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Photo Credit: Eric Hon/HK Phil



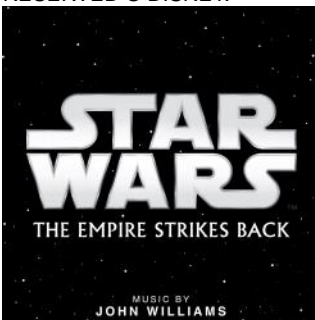
Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert

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Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert

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Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert

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Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Music Director: Jaap van Zweden

Principal Guest Conductor: Yu Long

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (HK Phil) is recognised as Asia's foremost classical orchestra. Presenting more than 150 concerts over a 44-week season, the HK Phil attracts more than 200,000 music lovers annually.

Jaap van Zweden, one of today's most sought-after conductors, has been the orchestra's Music Director since the 2012/13 concert season, a position he will continue to hold until at least 2022. Maestro van Zweden is the 26th Music Director of the New York Philharmonic from the 2018/19 season.

Yu Long has been Principal Guest Conductor since the 2015/16 season.

Under the dynamic leadership of Music Director Jaap van Zweden, the HK Phil has attained new heights of artistic excellence, garnering international critical acclaim.

Following on from the success of the European tour which included a filmed concert from Vienna's Musikverein, the HK Phil has toured extensively within the mainland China. In 2017, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, and with support of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices, the orchestra performed in Seoul, Osaka, Singapore, Melbourne and at the Sydney Opera House.

Jaap, the HK Phil, a superb cast of soloists and a chorus successfully completed an epic four-year journey through Wagner's "Ring Cycle" in January 2018. The concert performances and live Naxos recordings have been enthusiastically received by audiences and praised by critics at home and abroad. The recording of *Götterdämmerung* was released in November 2018.

Conductors and soloists who have recently performed with the orchestra include Vladimir Ashkenazy, Joshua Bell, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, Matthias Goerne, Stephen Hough, Evgeny Kissin, Lang Lang, Yo-Yo Ma, Ning Feng, Leonard Slatkin and Yuja Wang.

The HK Phil promotes the work of Hong Kong and Chinese composers through an active commissioning programme, and has released recordings on the Naxos label featuring Tan Dun and Bright Sheng, each conducting their own compositions. Its acclaimed education and community engagement programmes in schools, hospital and outdoor space, bring music into the hearts of tens of thousands of children and families every year.

The Swire Group has been the Principal Patron of the HK Phil since 2006. Through this sponsorship, which is the largest in the orchestra's history, Swire endeavours to promote artistic excellence, foster access to classical music and stimulate cultural participation in Hong Kong, and to enhance Hong Kong's reputation as one of the great cities in the world.

Thanks to a significant subsidy from the Hong Kong Government and long-term funding from Principal Patron Swire, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and other supporters, the HK Phil now boasts a full-time annual schedule of core classical repertoire and innovative popular programming, extensive education and community programmes, and collaborations with, among others, Opera Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Arts Festival and the Hong Kong Ballet.

Originally called the Sino-British Orchestra, it was renamed the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra in 1957 and became fully professional in 1974. The HK Phil is a charitable organisation.

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and is Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. SWIRE is the Principal Patron of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.