STAR WARS™

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

IN CONCERT



21–24 October 2026
Sydney Opera House

PRESENTATION LICENSED BY Disney CONCERTS

SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Emirates
Principal Partner

SYDNEY SYMPHONY PRESENTS

Wednesday 21 October, 7pm
Thursday 22 October, 7pm
Friday 23 October, 7pm

Saturday 24 Oct, 2pm & 7pm
Concert Hall,
Sydney Opera House

BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor

Estimated duration
Approx. 2 hours and 30 minutes
including a 20 minute interval

STAR WARS™
IN CONCERT

STAR WARS: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK
LIVE TO FILM

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

Music by
JOHN WILLIAMS

DOLBY.

20th Century Fox LUCASFILM Ltd

PRESENTATION LICENSED BY

Disney CONCERTS

Original Motion Picture Soundtrack available at Disneymusicemporium.com

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SYNOPSIS

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.

JOHN WILLIAMS composer



In a career spanning more than six decades, John Williams has become one of America's most accomplished and successful composers for film and the concert stage. He remains one of our nation's most distinguished and contributive musical voices.

He has composed the music for more than one hundred films, including all nine *Star Wars* films, the first three *Harry Potter* films, *Schindler's List, E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, Jaws, Jurassic Park, Saving Private Ryan, Lincoln, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Superman* and the *Indiana Jones* films. He served as music director of the Boston Pops Orchestra for fourteen seasons and remains their Laureate Conductor. He has composed numerous works for the concert stage including two symphonies and more than a dozen concertos commissioned by some of America's most prominent orchestras.

He has received five Academy Awards and fifty-three Oscar nominations, seven British Academy Awards, twenty-five Grammys, four Golden Globes, and five Emmys. His other honors include the Kennedy Center Honors, the National Medal of Arts, an honorary KBE from Queen Elizabeth II, the Life Achievement Award from the American Film Institute, Spain's Princess of Asturias Award for the Arts, and the Gold Medal from the UK's prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society.

STAR WARS FILM CONCERT SERIES PRODUCTION CREDITS

President, Disney Music Group
Ken Bunt

SVP/GM, Disney Concerts
Chip McLean

Supervising Technical Director
Alex Levy – Epilogue Media

Film Preparation
Ramiro Belgardt

Business Affairs, Lucasfilm
Rhonda Hjort
Chris Holm

For Booking Inquires:
Emily.Yoon@TeamWass.com

Music Preparation
Mark Graham
Matthew Voogt

JoAnn Kane Music Service

Disney Music Library

Operations, Disney Concerts
Brannon Fells
Royd Haston

Marketing & Publicity
Lisa Linares
Lillian Matulic

VP, Disney Concerts
Gina Lorscheider

Business Affairs, Disney Concerts
Darryl Franklin
Leigh Zeichick
Narine Minasian
Elena Contreras
Addison Granillo
Christy Swintek
Svetlana Tzaneva

Business Affairs, Warner-Chappell
Scott McDowel

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor

Australian conductor Benjamin Northey is the Chief Conductor of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, Conductor in Residence of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Principal Guest Conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. In 2025 he was appointed Professor of Conducting at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and Director of the Australian Conducting Academy. He has previously held the posts of Associate Conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (2010-2019), Resident Guest Conductor of the Australia Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra (2002-2006) and Principal Guest Conductor of the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra (2007-2010).

Northey studied conducting at Finland's Sibelius Academy with Professors Leif Segerstam and Atso Almila after being accepted as the highest placed applicant in 2002. He completed his studies at the Stockholm Royal College of Music with Jorma Panula in 2006. He previously studied conducting with John Hopkins OBE at the University of Melbourne Conservatorium of Music from 2000-2002.

Northey appears regularly as a guest conductor with all major Australian symphony orchestras, Opera Australia, New Zealand Opera, Victorian Opera and the State Opera South Australia.

His international appearances include concerts with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia, the Malaysian Philharmonic and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

Northey has collaborated with a broad range of leading artists including Lang Lang, Pinchas Zukerman, Wynton Marsalis, Maxim Vengerov, Anne-Sofie von Otter, Julian Rachlin, Karen Gomyo, Piers Lane, Alban Gerhardt, Johannes Moser, William Barton, Lu Siquing, Amy Dickson, Slava Grigoryan, Marc-André Hamelin, James Morrison, Kurt Elling, Archie Roach, Ben Folds, Nick Cave & Warren Ellis, Paul Grabowsky, Tim Minchin,



Photo by Laura Manariti

kd Lang, Patti Austin, Kate Miller-Heidke, Megan Washington, Barry Humphries, Meow Meow and Tori Amos.

Northey is highly active in the performance and recording of new Australian orchestral music, having premiered dozens of major new works by Australian composers. He has previously been a board member of the Australian Music Centre.

An ARIA Awards winner, he was voted *Limelight's* Australian Artist of the Year in 2018. Northey's many recordings can be found on ABC Classics. In 2026, he conducts the Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, West Australian, Tasmanian and Christchurch Symphony Orchestras, and will be working again with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Wynton Marsalis in his *All Rise* program, this time with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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.

Their concerts encompass masterpieces from the classical repertoire, music by some of the finest living composers, and collaborations with guest artists from all genres. They also celebrate the role of the symphony orchestra in movies, television and video games.

sydneysymphony.com

PERFORMING IN THIS CONCERT

FIRST VIOLINS

Fiona Ziegler
Concertmaster
Jennifer Booth
Sophie Cole
Sercan Danis
Claire Herrick
Emily Long
Liam Pilgrim
Benjamin Tjoa
Leone Ziegler
Brian Hong°
Rain Liu*
Marcus Michelsen*

SECOND VIOLINS

Kirsty Hilton
Principal
Monique Irik
Benjamin Li
Nicole Masters
Maja Verunica
Emily Qin°
Riikka Sintonen°
Lydia Sawires†
Michelle Abraham*
Natalie Favaloro*
Elizabeth Jones*

VIOLAS

Rosemary Curtin
Acting Principal
Anne-Louise Comerford
Associate Principal Emeritus
Sandro Costantino
Stuart Johnson
Felicity Tsai
Leonid Volovelsky
Andrew Jezek°
Stephen Wright°
Sebastian Coyne†
Dana Lee*

CELLOS

Jesper Svedberg
Principal
Simon Cobcroft
Associate Principal
Leah Lynn
Assistant Principal
Timothy Nankervis
Christopher Pidcock
Paul Stender°
Hikaru Fuminashi*
Rowena Macneish*

DOUBLE BASSES

Kees Boersma
Principal
Alexander Henery
Principal
Dylan Holly
Steven Larson
Jaan Pallandi
Harry Young°

FLUTES

Lily Bryant°
Acting Associate Principal
Kara Thorpe†
Kate Lawson°
Acting Principal Piccolo

OBOES

Shefali Pryor
Principal
Callum Hogan
Acting Associate Principal
Eve Osborn°

CLARINETS

Francesco Celata
Associate Principal
Justin Wang†
Alexander Morris
Principal Bass Clarinet

BASSOONS

Todd Gibson-Cornish
Principal
Fiona McNamara
Bailey Ireland*
Guest Principal Contrabassoon

HORNS

Samuel Jacobs
Principal
Euan Harvey
Acting Principal 3rd Horn
Emily Miers°
Lucy Smith†
Bryn Arnold*
Sarah Bernard*
Joshua Davies*

TRUMPETS

Brent Grapes
Associate Principal
Cécile Glémot
Anthony Heinrichs
Fletcher Cox*
Guest Principal Trumpet

TROMBONES

Scott Kinmont
Acting Principal
Nick Byrne
Acting Associate Principal
Jeremy Mazurek°
Brett Page*
Guest Principal Bass Trombone

TUBA

Steven Rossé
Principal

TIMPANI

Antoine Siguré
Principal

PERCUSSION

Timothy Constable
Acting Principal
Joshua Hill°
Leah Columbine†
Tim Brigden*
Gabriel Fischer*

HARP

Kate Moloney*
Guest Principal

KEYBOARD

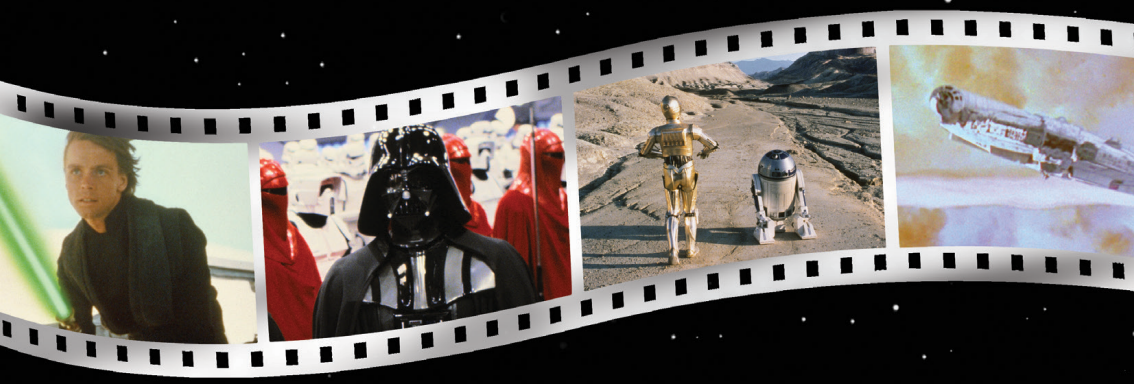
Catherine Davis*
Guest Principal

Bold Principal
* Guest Musician
° Contract Musician
† Sydney Symphony Fellow

STAR WARS™

RETURN OF THE JEDI

IN CONCERT



WITH THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

22–25 SEPTEMBER 2027
SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Disney CONCERTS

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YOUR EXCLUSIVE PRESALE

Experience the spectacular climax to the original *Star Wars* trilogy, as John Williams's Oscar®-nominated score is performed live-to-film at the Sydney Opera House, conducted by Nicholas Buc. Use code **DROID** to access your exclusive presale* tickets.

*Offer ends 9.59am, Tuesday 27 October, 2026.

YOUR EXPERIENCE MATTERS. SO DOES YOUR SUPPORT.

Did you know ticket sales only cover 50% of our operating and touring costs?

As a not-for-profit organisation, the Orchestra relies on the support of generous music lovers like you to bring world-class performances to the stage and extend our reach into the community.

By making a donation today, you'll help ensure that exceptional musical experiences remain accessible to everyone, on stage, on tour, and beyond.

Every gift makes a difference, and donations over $2 are tax-deductible.



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