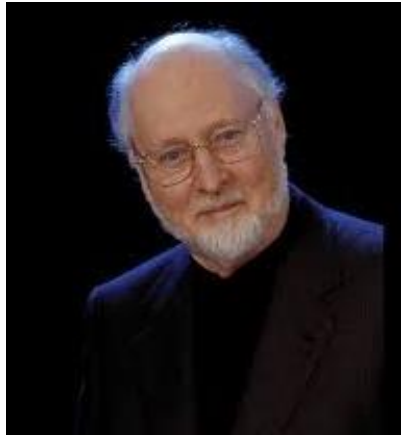


2025 Festival Orchestra Notes by Fran Rosenthal

Star Wars Celebration | Friday, March 28, 2025

John Williams, American, 1931 - Star Wars Celebration



Classically trained at Juilliard, John Williams (b. 1932) is perhaps best known as the long-time conductor of the Boston Pops and as an award-winning collaborator with director Steven Spielberg. His artistic partnership, now spanning almost half a century, has resulted in many of Hollywood's most acclaimed and successful films, including *Jaws*, *Jurassic Park*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and *Schindler's List*. In addition, he composed the scores for all eight *Star Wars* films and the first three *Harry Potter* films.

Mr. Williams has also written for the concert stage, including two symphonies and numerous concertos, as well as music for various public events. His music accompanied the rededication of the Statue of Liberty in 1986 and has been heard at the Olympic Games since 1984.

Other composers have also contributed to the iconic *Star Wars* musical universe including John Powell (*Solo: A Star Wars Story*, shown below to the left. John Powell is also known for his award-winning scores to the *How To Train Your Dragon* animated films), Michael Giacchino (a fun fact, Michael wrote the entire score to *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* in just 12 days' time after the original composer was fired for not capturing Williams' magic. He is also an Oscar-winning film scorer for many Pixar films including *Up*, *Ratatouille*, and *The Incredibles*), and Ludwig Göransson (*The Mandalorian*, shown below to the right).





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Arizona Musicfest would like to thank Fran Rosenthal for her thorough, entertaining, and thoughtful notes that add depth and perspective to the great music you'll hear during our Festival Orchestra week.