

JOIN THE TEMPLE HILL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN

A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY

Come hear John Williams's epic score for Star Wars,
plus the music that inspired it!

Wear your best Star Wars gear and participate
in our costume contest!

Enjoy a reception after the concert with costumed members of the 501st!

PERFORMANCES ARE

FRIDAY, October 10th, 2025 at 7:30 PM

SATURDAY, October 11th, 2025 at 7:00 PM

IN THE OAKLAND TEMPLE HILL AUDITORIUM

Make sure to reserve your **FREE** tickets at TempleHill.org! Open to the public. All are welcome!



Reserve **FREE** tickets
on templehill.org



CONDUCTOR:
Kirsten Bradford

Temple Hill Auditorium
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
4780 Lincoln Avenue
Oakland, California

From the Conductor

I am thrilled and humbled to step into my tenure as the Conductor and Music Director of the Temple Hill Symphony Orchestra. I love this organization, the people in it, and its mission of sharing the light of Christ, joy, hope, unity, and accessible music with the community. Former conductor Jay Trottier leaves a huge legacy. The beautiful relationships he's created with our instrumentalists and our community are powerful and meaningful, and we are honored to have him and his wife Becky in our lives.

When it came time to choose the music for my first concert with the symphony, the decision was easy—John Williams's music for *Star Wars*. I was eleven years old when I watched *Star Wars: A New Hope* for the first time, and not ten minutes after the movie ended, I had thrown together a costume from household items and was chasing my siblings around the house, using my mom's blow dryer as a blaster. From that moment on, I was a fan for life.

I spent many hours growing up listening to CDs of the soundtracks, marveling over John Williams's brilliant score. I've studied the pieces of music that inspired it—classic movie scores and epic symphonies. Through his use of leitmotifs (a musical phrase or melody associated with a character, theme, or idea), Williams is able to tell stories, build worlds, express conflicts, convey hope and yearning, and share triumph all through chords, harmonies, and melodic lines. Without his score, these movies would never have achieved the sort of lasting generational success they have.

Star Wars now unites my husband and I with our two daughters, and it's something we enjoy together as a family. For many, these films and their memorable musical themes bring generations together, conveying universal ideas of hope, inspiration, and goodness. I hope as you listen tonight that you share the joy of that connection with your family, found family, loved ones, friends, and neighbors. Thank you for being with us. May the Force be with you.

Kirsten Bradford
Temple Hill Symphony Orchestra
Music Director & Conductor



Kirsten Bradford with husband and daughters



Kirsten Bradford, Conductor

Kirsten Bradford developed a love of orchestral music, film scores, musicals, and opera at an early age. Her conducting career started at the age of five, marching to and conducting the KDFC Classical Radio Morning March every day before school, and she's been involved in music ever since. She has performed as a solo vocalist many times on Temple Hill and has been seen in musicals and choral performances around the Bay Area. She has conducted dozens of youth, teen, and adult choir performances over the last decade. Kirsten started as an assistant conductor with the Temple Hill Symphony in

2024 and has been incredibly lucky to study conducting under previous THSO director Maestro Jay Trotter. She also currently studies with Dr. Buddy James at CSU East Bay and is slowly making her way towards her end goal of a master's degree in conducting. When not performing, Kirsten loves spending time with her husband and two teenage daughters.



Vivian Nguyen, Guest Conductor

Vivian Pham Nguyen, a junior at Monte Vista High School in Danville, started playing piano when she was four years old. She is currently a piano instructor and an active advanced student at Pleasanton Academy of Music. Vivian has achieved many notable accomplishments such as winning Grand Prizes, First Prizes, Outstanding Gold Medalist Awards, and scholarships at various competitions including New York Concert Festival International Competition, US Open Music Competition, US International Music Competition, the Grand Prize Virtuoso International Music Competition, and Carmel Klavier International Music Competition.

One of her most memorable achievements was performing at the prestigious Carnegie Hall when she was nine years old as a Grand Prix Prize winner from the New York Concert Festival International Competition. She also performed at other international concert halls including the Mozarteum in Austria, the Concertgebouw in the Netherlands, and the Walt Disney Concert Hall, USA. She has performed with the Temple Hill Symphony Orchestra in the Salute to Youth Concert and the Russian Classics Concert as a piano soloist. Vivian appreciates a broad range of musical styles and repertoires as each musical period presents unique characteristics which she loves to explore and master, inspiring her to pursue the opportunity to conduct in the "Galaxy Far, Far Away" concert. Besides music, she is an active National Speech and Debate Association member in Varsity Division, achieving notable awards at regional, state, and national tournaments. Vivian enjoys participating in community service activities to make differences in the community.



Sophie Koval, Guest Conductor

Sophie Koval is a 15-year-old multi-instrumentalist who has a passion for performing and teaching music. She plays the violin, piano, bass, and guitar. Sophie enjoys playing all sorts of music, from performing at festivals with her rock band to competing in jazz competitions on piano in her school's top jazz band. She conducts and mentors various youth ensembles and orchestras, and has been a devoted Temple Hill violin player and soloist.

Program

I Am a Child of God

Words by Naomi Ward Randall,
Music by Mildred Tanner Pettit, Arranged by Mike Carson
Sophie Koval, Guest Conductor
Amy Strong & Tyler Strong, Soloists

Main Title

Star Wars: Suite for Orchestra
John Williams

I. Mars, the Bringer of War

The Planets, op. 32
Gustav Holst

Leia's Theme

Star Wars: Suite for Orchestra
John Williams

Parade of the Charioteers

from *Ben Hur*
Miklos Rozsa
Vivien Nguyen, Guest Conductor

Yoda's Theme

Star Wars: Suite for Orchestra
John Williams

Duel of the Fates

The Phantom Menace: Suite for Orchestra
John Williams
Featuring the Duel of the Fates Chorus

Intermission

Cantina Band

Music from the Star Wars Saga

John Williams

Featuring John Escalera (lead), Ron Jarvis, Brinly Nearon, Kathy Vork, Mariko Abe,
Tim Neff, Rica Van Katwyk, John Mack, Ralph Granich, Heather Moore-Farley,
Alexandra de Lory, Thomas Mack

Imperial March

Star Wars: Suite for Orchestra

John Williams

Costume Contest

The Asteroid Field

Music from the Star Wars Saga

John Williams

Luke & Leia

Music from the Star Wars Saga

John Williams

IV: Finale: Allegro con fuoco (excerpt)

Symphony No. 9, op. 95, *New World Symphony*

Antonín Dvořák

The Throne Room

Star Wars: Suite for Orchestra

John Williams

**Join the orchestra and members of the 501st Golden Gate Garrison for a meet & greet
and light refreshments immediately following the concert in the cultural hall behind
the stage.**

Thank you for joining us! May the Force be with you!

Temple Hill Symphony Orchestra

Conductor & Music Director

Kirsten Bradford

Guest Conductors

Sophie Koval

Vivian Nguyen

Violin I

Cybèle D'Ambrosio, Concertmistress

Douglas Morisson

Peggy Jellinghausen, Associate

Concertmistress

Trevor Barrus

Sophie Koval

Miki Nakamura^

Stacie Andersen

Arthur Jue

Violin II

Stephanie Black*

Spencer Larsen

Linda Pedersen

Andi Isaac

Helen Duncan

Jackie Koval

Tina Rust

Hannah Stanford

Ed Walker

Bass

Tim Neff*+

Damian Anderson

Kate Lincoln

Flute & Piccolo

Melissa Gulamhussein*

Sharon Young

English Horn

Eric Hagen*

Oboe

Mary Kruzas

Cori Jackson

Clarinet

Ron Jarvis*+

Brinly Nearon+

Kathy Vork+

French Horn

Jeanne Porter*

Nancy Sanchez

Daniel Bao

Adrienne Chambers

Trumpet

John Escalera*+

Lorenzo Perez

Jeff Worrall

Miriam Brown

Brett Klein (sub)

Sue Leonardi (sub)

Trombone

Dave Downer*

Megan Kennedy

Dave Parker

Euphonium

Joe Brown

Viola

Keita Moriwaki^

Diana Joseph

Haley Tiu

Cello

Chris Jackson*

Mary Asnicar

Daniel Brown

Ted Kolda

Natasha Wunderlich

Bass Clarinet/Eb Clarinet/Clarinet

Mariko Abe+

Bassoon

Michael Garvey (10/10)

Catherine Tracy (10/11)

Contrabassoon

Lori Garvey

Piano

Rica Van Katwyk+

Organ

John Noble

Tuba

Stacie Andersen

Percussion

John Mack*+

Ralph Granich+

Heather Moore-Farley+

Alexandra de Lory+

Thomas Mack+

*Principal

+Cantina Band

^Lobby Duet

Duel of the Fates Chorus

Soprano

Katie Jackson
Abby Wunderlich
Eleanor Bradford
Beatrice Bradford
William Lorz
Nikki Hikari
Karen Collins
Amy Strong
Aparna Mirchandani

Alto

Larissa Stimmel
Anneke Reimers
Becky Ellefsen

Tenor

Daniel Jensen
Don Hardwick
Steve Davis
McKay Moore-Farley
Tom Farris

Bass

Jarom Nelson
Gary Foley
Glen Palmer
Chris Pedersen
Ben Bradford
Tim Lorz
John Kay

Operations

Dave Downer

Videography

Paris Fox

Tech

Harold Waters, Manager and Sound
Jeff Beyer, Lighting
Lauren Stewart, Stage Crew

Librarian

Linda Pedersen

Emcee

Mark Oakman

Many thanks to CSU East Bay for the use of their percussion equipment!

Our thanks to the members of the 501st Golden Gate Garrison for joining us!

Soloists

Tyler Strong

Tyler Strong is 13 years old and is in the 8th grade. He loves to play soccer, games with his friends, and percussion in his middle school drumline. Tyler also loves to sing and act and has been in recent productions of *The Sound of Music*, *Newsies*, *Willy Wonka*, *Pippin*, and *The Music Man*.

Amy Strong

Amy is thrilled to be singing with the incredible Temple Hill Symphony Orchestra. It is a dream of hers to collaborate with so many talented singers and musicians. Amy is a graduate of BYU where she performed with the BYU choirs. She also toured and performed with MCO in Arizona before relocating to Northern California with her family in 2013. Here in the Bay Area, she has participated with the Temple Hill Choir, *Scrooge! The Musical*, *The Music Man*, and has performed as a soloist in *Lamb of God* and *Days of Christmas*. Amy lives in Brentwood with her husband and 5 children and loves teaching music classes, piano, and directing vocals for musical theater.



Program Notes

The Music of *Star Wars*

In 1975, George Lucas chose film composer John Williams to score his upcoming film, a fairy tale set in space that would be unlike anything anyone had seen on screen before. Because of this unusual setting, Lucas wanted a classical symphonic score, something that would feel familiar and comfortable to audiences, juxtaposing what they saw on screen. Williams was the perfect person for the job. Once George Lucas had put together a rough cut of the film, he added temporary music tracks so Williams could get a feel for what he wanted where. Lucas used Holst's "Mars" from *The Planets*, and you can hear its influence in the "Main Title." He used excerpts from classic film scores, like the music written by Erich Korngold, Max Steiner, and Miklós Rózsa in the 1930s and 40s. He used the beginning of the fourth movement of Dvořák's *New World Symphony* to convey moments of triumph. John Williams took that inspiration and created something iconic. He went on to score eight more *Star Wars* films.

Williams's score for *Star Wars: A New Hope* is still celebrated almost 50 years later for a reason. He uses themes, techniques, and structures seamlessly to make us feel something. He begins "Leia's Theme" with a major 6th interval, an interval commonly used to convey hopeful longing. He creates tension with a dueling melody between the woodwinds and brass in "Duel of the Fates" to illustrate the battle through music. He uses frantic rhythm patterns and unusual chords to convey the chaos of dodging danger in "The Asteroid Field." Every piece has something technically masterful that builds the story and transports us to a far away galaxy that somehow feels familiar at the same time. And that's the beauty of what John Williams does through his score. Without his soaring melodies, *Star Wars* would not be what it is today—an iconic part of our collective cultural identity.

Sources

Neal, Sierra, David Palmer, and Jason Summers, eds. 2024. *Music by John Williams*. Directed by Laurent Bouzereau. Disney+.

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Rinzler, J W. *The Making of Star Wars: The Definitive Story Behind the Original Film*. Ebury Press, 2013.

Greiving, Tim. *John Williams: A Composer's Life*. Oxford University Press, 2025.

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Thank you for your support!

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Tax ID #20-5643531



ONCE UPON *a* TIME...

FEATURING THE TEMPLE HILL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Friday, March 6th, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Saturday, March 7th, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Join the Temple Hill Symphony Orchestra for an evening of magical tales, unexpected twists and turns, and happy endings with the music of fairy tales!
Costumes are encouraged!

Conductor: Kirsten Bradford



**The Church of
Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints**

4780 Lincoln Avenue
Oakland, California 94602