



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AWARD-WINNING COMPOSER-CONDUCTOR JOHN WILLIAMS TO LEAD THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC IN A PROGRAM OF GREAT HOLLYWOOD FILM SCORES, SEPTEMBER 14–16, 2007**

**FILM DIRECTOR STANLEY DONEN TO BE SPECIAL GUEST HOST; CLIPS OF MANY OF HIS LEGENDARY MUSICALS TO BE FEATURED**

**Evening Also To Feature Compositions for Film by Mr. Williams**

Composer-conductor **John Williams** will conduct and host three New York Philharmonic concerts of great Hollywood film scores, September 14–16, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. In addition, the legendary director Stanley Donen will host a retrospective of some of his classic movie musicals, which include *Singin' in the Rain*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Royal Wedding*, and *Anchors Aweigh*. The evening will also include selections from Mr. Williams's own scores for *Harry Potter* and *Memoirs of a Geisha*.

**Artists**

Composer-conductor **John Williams** has written the music for more than 100 films, creating some of the most memorable themes in cinema history, and has received 45 Academy Award nominations — most recently for his scores for *Memoirs of a Geisha* and *Munich* — making him the Academy's most nominated living person. Other films for which he has composed the score include *Catch Me If You Can*, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, *Minority Report*, *Star Wars Episode 2: Attack of the Clones*, *A.I. Artificial Intelligence*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, *The Patriot*, *Angela's Ashes*, *Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace*, *Stepmom*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Amistad*, *Seven Years in Tibet*, *The Lost World*, *Rosewood*, *Sleepers*, *Nixon*, *Sabrina*, *Schindler's List*, *Jurassic Park*, *Home Alone*, *Far and Away*, *JFK*, *Hook*, *Presumed Innocent*, *Always*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Empire of the Sun*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*, *Superman*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and the *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* trilogies. He has received five Oscars, twenty Grammys, four Emmys, seven British Academy Awards, and has made numerous records that went gold or platinum. The soundtrack album for *Star Wars* has sold more than four million copies, making it one of the most successful non-pop albums in recording history.

Mr. Williams is equally at home in the concert hall and has written many concert pieces, including two symphonies, and concertos for flute, tuba, violin, clarinet, and cello. Among his concert works are *The Five Sacred Trees*, a bassoon concerto commissioned by the New York Philharmonic for its 150th anniversary, and a trumpet concerto commissioned by The Cleveland

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Orchestra. Mr. Williams also composed the *Liberty Fanfare*, written for the rededication of the Statue of Liberty, and the themes for the 1984, 1988, and 1996 Summer Olympic Games and the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. In 1999 Mr. Williams composed the orchestral work *American Journey* to commemorate the new millennium and to accompany the retrospective film *The Unfinished Journey* directed by Steven Spielberg. The film and music were premiered at the “America’s Millennium” concert in Washington, D.C., on New Year’s Eve 1999.

John Williams is one of the most respected and honored composers of film and concert music, and is laureate conductor of the Boston Pops, having previously held the post of conductor for 14 seasons. Born in New York, he moved to Los Angeles with his family in 1948. He attended UCLA and studied composition privately with Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. After service in the Air Force, Mr. Williams returned to New York to attend The Juilliard School, studying piano with Rosina Lhévinne. He also worked as a jazz pianist in clubs and on recordings before returning to Los Angeles, where he began his career in the film studios, working with such composers as Bernard Herrmann, Alfred Newman, and Franz Waxman.

He has led the Boston Pops and Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestras on tours of the U.S. and Japan. He has appeared as a guest conductor with many major orchestras, including the London Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, and San Francisco Symphony. On December 5, 2004, Mr. Williams was one of five Kennedy Center honorees, along with singer Sir Elton John, soprano Joan Sutherland, actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, and actor-director Warren Beatty. Mr. Williams conducted two concerts with the New York Philharmonic in April 2006 featuring great Hollywood film scores, including some of his own.

**Stanley Donen** began his career at Metro Goldwyn Mayer as a choreographer and dancer in *Best Food Forward* (1943) with Lucille Ball. He appeared with Gene Kelly in *Cover Girl* (1944) for Columbia Pictures, and also directed one of Kelly’s dance sequences in the film. His full-length-film directorial debut was an adaptation of the Comden and Green musical, *On the Town* (1949), which he co-directed with Gene Kelly, teaming up again with Kelly for *Singin’ in the Rain* (1952). As sole director, his films include such classics as *Royal Wedding* (1951), *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (1954), *Funny Face* (1957), *The Pajama Game* (1957), *Indiscreet* (1958), *Damn Yankees* (1958), *Charade* (1963), *Bedazzled* (1967), and *Two for the Road* (1967). His most recent theatrical film release was the May-December romance, *Blame It on Rio* (1984) with Michael Caine and Demi Moore. He has also directed for television, including a musical sequence for *Moonlighting*, Lionel Richie’s music video for “Dancing on the Ceiling,” and a made-for-television film, *Love Letters* (1999).

Mr. Donen was nominated for five Directors Guild of America Awards. In 1998 he received an honorary Academy Award “in appreciation of a body of work marked by grace, elegance, wit, and visual innovation.”

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Tickets are \$55 to \$145,\* and are currently on sale only to New York Philharmonic Subscribers; single tickets go on sale to the general public on June 11, 2007. Tickets may be purchased by calling **(212) 875-5656**, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily. Tickets may also be purchased online at **nyphil.org**, or at the **Avery Fisher Hall Box Office**, Lincoln Center, Broadway at 65th Street. The Box Office opens at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and at noon on Sunday. On performance evenings, the Box Office closes one-half hour after performance time; other evenings it closes at 6:00 p.m.

The Philharmonic's **24-hour hotline**, **(212) 875-5709**, provides information on this and other New York Philharmonic programs. For press tickets, call George Berry at (212) 875-5714 or e-mail *berryg@nyphil.org*.

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**New York Philharmonic**  
Avery Fisher Hall

**John Williams with the New York Philharmonic**

Friday, September 14, 2007, 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, September 15, 2007, 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, September 16, 2007, 8:00 p.m.

John Williams, conductor and host  
Stanley Donen, special guest host

Repertoire to be announced

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\*Ticket prices subject to change

*Photography is available in the New York Philharmonic online newsroom, [nyphil.org/newsroom](http://nyphil.org/newsroom), or by contacting the Public Relations Department: (212) 875-5700; [PR@nyphil.org](mailto:PR@nyphil.org).*