



OMAHA
SYMPHONY

Ankush Kumar Bahl, Music Director

program notes

2022/23 SEASON

Maestro and the Music of John Williams

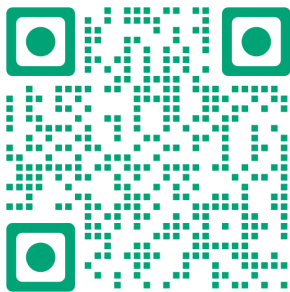
Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. | Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Holland Performing Arts Center

Ankush Kumar Bahl, conductor

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This printed program is a condensed version. For more info about the orchestra, guest artists, and the music, download the Omaha Symphony app or scan this QR code with your mobile device.



*program subject to change

JOHN WILLIAMS	The Flight to Neverland from <i>Hook</i>
JOHN WILLIAMS	The Mission Theme from <i>NBC News</i>
JOHN WILLIAMS	Theme from <i>Jurassic Park</i>
JOHN WILLIAMS	Theme from <i>Schindler's List</i> for Solo Violin and Orchestra
JOHN WILLIAMS	Raiders March from <i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i>
JOHN WILLIAMS	Love Theme from <i>Superman</i>
JOHN WILLIAMS	Adventures on Earth from <i>E.T. (The Extra-Terrestrial)</i>
INTERMISSION	
JOHN WILLIAMS	Hedwig's Theme from <i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone: Suite for Orchestra</i>
JOHN WILLIAMS	Suite from <i>Far and Away</i>
JOHN WILLIAMS	Viktor's Tale from <i>The Terminal</i> for Solo Clarinet and Orchestra
JOHN WILLIAMS	The March from <i>1941</i>
JOHN WILLIAMS	Duel of the Fates from <i>Star Wars: The Phantom Menace, Suite for Orchestra</i>
JOHN WILLIAMS	Rey's Theme from <i>Star Wars: The Force Awakens Suite</i>
JOHN WILLIAMS	Main Title from <i>Star Wars, Suite for Orchestra</i>

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About the artists



Ankush Kumar Bahl, conductor

Currently in his second season as Music Director of the Omaha Symphony, Ankush Kumar Bahl has delivered resonant performances of masterworks, new and old, championing American composers and artists while pursuing innovative, community-based concert design. Bahl is recognized by orchestras and audiences alike for his impressive conducting technique, thoughtful interpretations, and engaging podium presence. In concert, he has left the *Washington Post* “wanting to hear more” and has been praised by the *New York Times* for his “clear authority and enthusiasm” and ability to “inspire.”

Highlights of previous and upcoming guest engagements include concerts with the New York Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France, Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México, Richmond Symphony, Virginia Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic, and the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO, in Washington, D.C.). Summer festival appearances engagements include the Copenhagen Philharmonic at Tivoli, Sun Valley Summer Symphony, Wintergreen Summer Music Festival, Chautauqua Institute, Wolf Trap with the NSO, and a debut at the Brevard Music Center in the summer of 2022. An experienced collaborator, Bahl has worked with many prominent soloists, among them Daniil Trifonov, Lang Lang, Sarah Chang, Lara St. John, Karen Gomyo, Aaron Diehl, Bhezod Abduraimov, Benjamin Grosvenor, Orion Weiss, Conrad Tao, Charlie Albright, Anthony McGill, Kelley O'Connor, Philadelphia Orchestra Concertmaster David Kim, and Vesko Eschkenazy, concertmaster of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.



John Williams, composer

In a career that spans over five decades, John Williams has become one of America’s most accomplished and successful composers for film and for the concert stage. He has served as music director and laureate conductor of one of the country’s treasured musical institutions, the Boston Pops Orchestra, and he maintains thriving artistic relationships with many of the world’s great orchestras, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Mr. Williams has received a variety of prestigious awards, including the National Medal of Arts, the Kennedy Center

Honor, the Olympic Order, and numerous Academy Awards, Grammy Awards, Emmy Awards, and Golden Globe Awards. He remains one of our nation’s most distinguished and contributive musical voices.

About the artists



Mr. Williams has composed the music and served as music director for more than one hundred films. His 48-year artistic partnership with director Steven Spielberg has resulted in many of Hollywood's most acclaimed and successful films, including *Schindler's List*, *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial*, *Jaws*, *Jurassic Park*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, four *Indiana Jones* films, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Amistad*, *Munich*, *Hook*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *Minority Report*, *A.I.: Artificial Intelligence*, *Empire of the Sun*, *The Adventures of Tin Tin* and *War Horse*. Their latest collaboration, *The Fabelmans*, was released in 2022. Mr. Williams has composed the scores for nine *Star Wars* films, the first three *Harry Potter* films, *Superman: The Movie*, *JFK*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, *Far and Away*, *The Accidental Tourist*, *Home Alone*, *Nixon*, *The Patriot*, *Angela's Ashes*, *Seven Years in Tibet*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Rosewood*, *Sleepers*, *Sabrina*, *Presumed Innocent*, *The Cowboys* and *The Reivers*, among many others. He has worked with many legendary directors, including Alfred Hitchcock, William Wyler and Robert Altman. In 1971, he adapted the score for the film version of *Fiddler on the Roof*, for which he composed original violin cadenzas for renowned virtuoso Isaac Stern. He has appeared on recordings as pianist and conductor with Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell, Jessye Norman and others. Mr. Williams has received five Academy Awards and 53 Oscar nominations, making him the Academy's most-nominated living person and the second-most nominated person in the history of the Oscars. His most recent nomination was for the film *The Fabelmans*. He also has received seven British Academy Awards (BAFTA), 25 Grammys, four Golden Globes, three Emmys, and numerous gold and platinum records.

Born and raised in New York, Mr. Williams moved to Los Angeles with his family in 1948, where he studied composition with Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. After service in the Air Force, he returned to New York to attend the Juilliard School, where he studied piano with Madame Rosina Lhevinne. While in New York, he also worked as a jazz pianist, both in nightclubs and on recordings. He returned to Los Angeles and began his career in the film industry, working with a number of accomplished composers including Bernard Herrmann, Alfred Newman, and Franz Waxman. He went on to write music for more than 200 television episodes for anthology series *Alcoa Premiere*, *Kraft Suspense Theatre*, *Chrysler Theatre* and *Playhouse 90*. His more recent contributions to television music include the well-known theme for *NBC Nightly News* ("The Mission"), the theme for what has become network television's longest-running series, NBC's *Meet the Press*, and a new theme for the prestigious PBS arts showcase *Great Performances*.

In addition to his activity in film and television, Mr. Williams has composed numerous works for the concert stage, among them two symphonies, and concertos for flute, violin, clarinet, viola, oboe and tuba. His cello concerto was commissioned by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and premiered by Yo-Yo Ma at Tanglewood in 1994. Mr. Williams also has filled commissions by several of the world's leading orchestras, including a bassoon concerto for the New York Philharmonic entitled *The Five Sacred Trees*, a trumpet concerto for the Cleveland Orchestra, and a horn concerto for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. *Seven for Luck*, a seven-piece song cycle for soprano and orchestra based on the texts of former U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove, was premiered by the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood in 1998. At the opening concert of their 2009–2010 season, James Levine led the Boston Symphony in the premiere of Mr. Williams' *On Willows and Birches*, a concerto for harp and orchestra.

About the artists



In January 1980, Mr. Williams was named nineteenth music director of the Boston Pops Orchestra, succeeding the legendary Arthur Fiedler. He currently holds the title of Boston Pops Laureate Conductor which he assumed following his retirement in December 1993, after 14 highly successful seasons. He also holds the title of Artist-in-Residence at Tanglewood.

One of America's best known and most distinctive artistic voices, Mr. Williams has composed music for many important cultural and commemorative events. *Liberty Fanfare* was composed for the rededication of the Statue of Liberty in 1986. *American Journey*, written to celebrate the new millennium and to accompany the retrospective film *The Unfinished Journey* by director Steven Spielberg, was premiered at the "America's Millennium" concert in Washington, D.C. on New Year's Eve, 1999. His orchestral work *Soundings* was performed at the celebratory opening of Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. In the world of sport, he has contributed musical themes for the 1984, 1988, and 1996 Summer Olympic Games, the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, and the 1987 International Summer Games of the Special Olympics. In 2006, Mr. Williams composed the theme for NBC's presentation of NFL Football.

Mr. Williams holds honorary degrees from 21 American universities, including The Juilliard School, Boston College, Northeastern University, Tufts University, Boston University, the New England Conservatory of Music, the University of Massachusetts at Boston, The Eastman School of Music, the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and the University of Southern California. He is a recipient of the 2009 National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists by the United States Government. In 2003, he received the Olympic Order, the IOC's highest honor, for his contributions to the Olympic movement. He served as the Grand Marshal of the 2004 Rose Parade in Pasadena and was a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honor in December of 2004. Mr. Williams was inducted into the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 2009, and in January of that same year he composed and arranged *Air and Simple Gifts* especially for the first inaugural ceremony of President Barack Obama.