

## About the Show

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*Modesto Symphony Orchestra Association*

### **Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back**

#### **in Concert**

Friday, June 2, 2023, 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 3, 2023, 2 pm

Gallo Center for the Arts, Mary Stuart Rogers Theater

Ryan Murray, *conductor*

## Program

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*John Williams*

### ***Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back***

Feature Film with Orchestra

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**There will be one intermission.**

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### **Star Wars Film Concert Series**

#### ***Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back***

#### **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

### **Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert**

"You must feel the Force around you." -Yoda



**Screenplay by**  
Leigh Brackett and Lawrence Kasdan

**Story by**  
George Lucas

**Executive Producer**  
George Lucas

**Music by**  
John Williams



## Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert

“You must feel the Force around  
you.” -Yoda

Disney  
CONCERTS

Dolby

20th  
CENTURY  
FOX

Original Motion Picture Soundtrack available at [Disneymusicemporium.com](http://Disneymusicemporium.com)

## Rosters

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### Orchestra Roster

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Ryan Murray, conductor

#### *Violin I*

Ilana Blumberg, *concertmaster*  
Dagenais Smiley, *associate concertmaster*  
Calvin Lewis, *assistant concertmaster*  
Kirstan Hilton  
Mark Neyshloss  
Milka Kraveva-Castro  
Gabrielle Wunsch  
Yuri Kye  
Sangeeta Swamy

Barbara Schaefer  
Ray Reinbach  
Miles Huang  
Amy Lindsey  
Asuka Yanai

***Violin II***

Myriam Cottin-Rack, *principal*  
Aya Kiyonaga, *assistant principal*  
Juan Carlos Gutierrez  
Donald Grishaw  
Donna Harrison  
Gyongyver Petheo  
Darren Sagawa  
Ingrid Peters  
Ivelina Kofler  
Bogdana Mindov  
Susan Doering  
Josh Estrada

***Viola***

Meg Titchener, *principal*  
Alexandra Simpson, *assistant principal*  
Lisa Ponton  
Nathan Yamamoto  
Chris Simpson  
Anne Martin  
Melinda Rayne  
Andrew Tosey-Grishaw  
Tianna Heppner  
Alan Busteed

***Cello***

Eileen Moon, *principal*  
Farley Pearce, *assistant principal*  
Daniel Davies  
Hannah Harrington  
Andrew Ford  
Dieter Wulfhorst  
Eric Sheaffer  
Joan Hadeishi

***Bass***

Raymond Vargas, *principal*  
Zachary Iscoff, *assistant principal*  
Alexandria Kelley

**Star Wars: The Empire  
Strikes Back in Concert**

“You must feel the Force around  
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Heidi Franklin  
Tom Spencer  
Riley Collier

**Flute**

Johanna Borenstein, *principal*  
Debra Dix  
Gail Edwards, *piccolo*

**Oboe**

Robert Walker, *principal*  
Trey Farrell  
Michael Johnson, *english horn*

**Clarinet**

Besnik Abrashi, *principal*  
Jeannie Psomas, *E-flat clarinet, bass clarinet*  
James Pytko, *bass clarinet*

**Bassoon**

Nicolasa Kuster, *principal*  
Katherine Ruiz  
Alex Zdanis, *contrabassoon*

**Horn**

Melia Badalian, *principal*  
Caitlyn Smith-Franklin, *assistant principal*  
Nicky Roosevelt  
Katie Dennis  
William Harrington  
Sarah Ference  
Jon Anderson

**Trumpet**

Derek McDonald, *principal*  
Michael Bucalo  
William Harvey

**Trombone**

Bruce Chrisp, *principal*  
Don Benham  
Gary Jones

**Star Wars: The Empire  
Strikes Back in Concert**

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Wayne Solomon, *bass trombone*

***Tuba***

Jonathan Seiberlich, *principal*

***Timpani***

John Weeks, *principal*

***Percussion***

Thomas Rance, *principal*

Joseph Runnels

David Gabrielson

Michael Downing

Peyton Esraelian

***Harp***

Molly Langr, *principal*

***Piano / Celeste***

John Hillebrandt, *principal*

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*Roster as of 05/25/2023*

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**Artist Biographies**

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**Ryan Murray**

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conductor

American conductor **Ryan Murray** has found steady acclaim as a compelling, dynamic and unflappable presence on the podium. Ryan is currently Principal Pops Conductor for the Modesto Symphony, Music Director of the Auburn



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**Star Wars: The Empire  
Strikes Back in Concert**

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## Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert

“You must feel the Force around you.” -Yoda

Symphony, and Artistic Director of Music in the Mountains. An award-winning opera conductor, Ryan spent his early career working as an assistant conductor and répétiteur, and is currently the Music Director of Opera Modesto. He has served as an assistant conductor at the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera, is the past Music Director of Fresno Grand Opera, and previously worked as a staff conductor for the Bay Area Summer Opera Theater Institute (BASOTI) and The Opera Academy of California in San Francisco. Effortlessly moving between genres, Ryan currently enjoys a wide range of performance genres & platforms, including traditional orchestral and operatic repertoire, pops performances, movies in concert, and a notable emphasis on contemporary American operatic works.

Ryan was the winner of the Vienna Philharmonic's prestigious Ansbacher Fellowship for Young Conductors, and spent the summer in residence alongside the Vienna Philharmonic at the 2014 Salzburg Festival. Ryan was also awarded second place in the 2019 American Prize for Professional Orchestral Conducting for his work with the Modesto Symphony, and has garnered national recognition for his dynamic, compelling performances of contemporary opera as the winner of the 2017 American Prize in Opera Conducting for his highly lauded production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He was a 2016 semi-finalist for the Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music for his production of Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*.

A charismatic pops conductor, Ryan has worked with prominent artists such as Storm Large of Pink Martini, SuperDiamond and the phenomenal symphonic tribute to David Bowie. He was recently engaged to step-in at the last minute as assistant and cover conductor for Andrea Bocelli's *Believe Tour* with the Sacramento Philharmonic where he conducted rehearsals to acclaim. He has led some of the top vocalists from Broadway and beyond, including Ben Crawford (Broadway's *The Phantom of the Opera*), Ashley Brown (Broadway's *Mary Poppins*), and Alli Mauzey (Glinda from *Wicked*), as well as some of today's top young jazz vocalists including Tony DeSare and James Tormé. With an enthusiasm for film scores, Ryan enjoys the unique challenges of conducting movies in concert and was recently added to the *Disney & ICM Approved Conductors list*. Recent and upcoming performances include Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*, Pixar Animation Studios' *Pixar in Concert*, *Star Wars: A New Hope* and *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*.

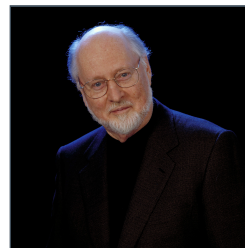
Ryan holds degrees, *summa cum laude*, in Bassoon Performance and Voice Performance from California State University, Sacramento and also holds a

master's degree, *with distinction*, in Music Business from the Berklee College of Music where he studied with industry professionals to develop tools for success in the modern music industry, including new technology, policy, law and finance. Ryan has a strong commitment to education and currently serves as the Director of Symphony Orchestra & Opera at California State University, Sacramento, and as the conductor for the Sacramento Youth Symphony's premier orchestra. Driven by a lifelong passion for learning, Ryan has attended conducting masterclasses and seminars around the world. Ryan recently conducted the Romanian Chamber Orchestra in concert and was one of just eight conductors worldwide to be invited to the *Musiikin aika* Summer Festival Masterclass in Finland led by Susanna Mälkki. He has previously attended the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music's Conductors Workshop; the contemporary music symposium led by Alan Gilbert featuring the New York Philharmonic; the Aurora Chamber Festival in Sweden, where he studied under Maestro Kurt Masur; the Lucerne Festival Academy's Conducting Masterclass in Switzerland; and the Eastman School of Music's Summer Conducting Institute. Widely praised for his tireless work ethic, natural poise, and impassioned, inspired performances, Ryan continues to connect deeply with orchestras and audiences alike, and has proven to be a formidable presence on the podium.



**Star Wars: The Empire  
Strikes Back in Concert**

“You must feel the Force around  
you.” -Yoda



**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 for the concert stage, and he remains one of our nation's most distinguished and contributive musical voices. He has composed the music and served as music director for more than one hundred films, including all nine *Star Wars* films, the first three *Harry Potter* films, *Superman*, *JFK*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, *Far and Away*, *The Accidental Tourist*, *Home Alone* and *The Book Thief*. His 50-year artistic partnership with director Steven



## Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert

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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*, the *Indiana Jones* films, *Munich*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *The Adventures of Tintin*, *War Horse*, *Lincoln*, *The BFG*, *The Post* and *The Fabelmans*. His contributions to television music include scores for more than 200 television films for the groundbreaking, early anthology series *Alcoa Theatre*, *Kraft Television Theatre*, *Chrysler Theatre* and *Playhouse 90*, as well as themes for *NBC Nightly News* (“The Mission”), NBC’s *Meet the Press*, and the PBS arts showcase *Great Performances*. He also composed themes for the 1984, 1988, and 1996 Summer Olympic Games, the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. He has received five Academy Awards and fifty-three Oscar nominations, making him the Academy’s most-nominated living person and the second-most nominated person in the history of the Oscars. He has received seven British Academy Awards (BAFTA), twenty-five Grammys, four Golden Globes, five Emmys, and numerous gold and platinum records. In 2003, he received the Olympic Order (the IOC’s highest honor) for his contributions to the Olympic movement. He received the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors in December of 2004. In 2009, Mr. Williams was inducted into the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, and he received the National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists by the U.S. Government. In 2016, he received the 44<sup>th</sup> Life Achievement Award from the American Film Institute – the first time in their history that this honor was bestowed upon a composer. In 2020, he received Spain’s Princess of Asturias Award for the Arts as well as the Gold Medal from the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society in the UK, and in 2022 he was awarded an honorary knighthood of the British Empire as one of the final awards approved by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

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 fourteen highly successful seasons. He also holds the title of Artist-in-Residence at Tanglewood. Mr. Williams has composed numerous works for the concert stage, among them two symphonies, and concertos commissioned by several of the world’s leading orchestras, including a cello concerto for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, a bassoon concerto for the New York Philharmonic, a trumpet concerto for The Cleveland Orchestra, and a horn concerto for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In 2009, the Boston Symphony premiered his concerto for harp and orchestra entitled “On Willows and Birches”, and in the same year, Mr. Williams composed and arranged “Air and Simple Gifts”



especially for the first inaugural ceremony of President Barack Obama.

In 2021, Williams premiered his second violin concerto with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood along with soloist Anne-Sophie Mutter, for whom he composed the work. (January 2023)



## Disney Concerts

### Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert

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[Disney Concerts](#) is the concert production and licensing division of Disney Music Group, the music arm of The Walt Disney Company. Disney Concerts produces concerts and tours, and licenses Disney music and visual content to symphony orchestras and presenters on a worldwide basis. Disney Concerts’ concert packages include a variety of formats, such as “live to picture” film concerts and themed instrumental and vocal compilation concerts, and range from instrumental-only symphonic performances to multimedia productions featuring live vocalists and choir. Current titles include the *Star Wars Film Concert Series (Episodes IV-VII)*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Fantasia*, *Pixar In Concert*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Alice In Wonderland*, *Frozen*, *Ratatouille*, *The Pirates of the Caribbean series (Episodes I-IV)*, and *Silly Symphonies*, which last year collectively accounted for over 400 performances in many of the world’s top concert venues, including Lincoln Center, Royal Albert Hall, Sydney Opera House, Tokyo Forum and the Hollywood Bowl. Numerous new concert packages and touring productions from Disney’s portfolio of studios, including Disney’s feature animation and live action studios, Pixar, Lucasfilm and Marvel, are currently in development.

## Program Notes

### Film Synopsis

*Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back*

### Film Synopsis

**“You must feel the Force around you.” -Yoda**

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.

### **Star Wars Film Concert Series Production Credits**

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**Star Wars Film Concert Series Production Credits**

**President, Disney Music Group**  
Ken Bunt

### **Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert**

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“You must feel the Force around you.” -Yoda





## Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert

“You must feel the Force around you.” -Yoda

### SVP/GM, Disney Concerts Chip McLean

**Supervising Technical Director**  
Alex Levy –Epilogue Media

**Film Preparation**  
Ramiro Belgardt

**Business Affairs, Lucasfilm**  
Rhonda Hjort  
Chris Holm

**Music Preparation**  
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Matthew Voogt  
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**Business Affairs, Warner-Chappell**  
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## Celebrating Support

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*Thank You*

***The Modesto Symphony Orchestra gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors for supporting this weekend's post-concert reception.***

***Friday, June 2, 2023***

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Mobile devices may be used to read program notes during the concert.

Program and artists subject to change. E&OE.

## Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert

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## Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert

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**2022-2023 SEASON PARTNER**

