

THE MUSIC OF

# STAR WARS

opera  
north

BRADFORD LIVE  
SUNDAY 3 MAY 2026, 7.30PM

**Orchestra of Opera North**  
Leader: Katie Stillman  
**Caleb Young** Conductor/Host

## PROGRAMME

<b>Alfred Newman</b> (1900-70)	20th Century Fox Fanfare
<b>John Williams</b> (b. 1932)	<i>Star Wars</i> Suite Main Title Princess Leia's Theme Imperial March Yoda's Theme
	<i>The Phantom Menace</i> The Flag Parade The Adventures of Jar Jar
	<i>Attack of the Clones</i> Across the Stars
	<i>The Rise of Skywalker</i> The Rise of Skywalker Psalm of the Sith Rey and Ben Speeder Chase

## INTERVAL

<b>John Williams</b>	<i>The Last Jedi</i> The Rebellion Is Reborn
	<i>The Force Awakens</i> March of the Resistance Rey's Theme Scherzo for X-Wings Jedi Steps
	Music from the <i>Star Wars</i> Saga The Asteroid Field Parade of the Ewoks Here They Come Luke and Leia The Forest Battle
	<i>Star Wars</i> Suite Throne Room & End Title

## WELCOME TO THE MUSIC OF STAR WARS

It's a real pleasure to return to the Orchestra of Opera North for this celebration of John Williams' music. There's something special about bringing this repertoire to life with an orchestra that embraces both its precision and its sense of adventure.

What continues to strike me about Williams' writing is just how deeply it's rooted in the great symphonic tradition. Having had the privilege of working closely with him, I've seen at first hand the care and craft that goes into shaping these scores – not just as film music, but as concert works of real substance. They draw from the language of composers like Korngold, Holst and Stravinsky, while speaking in a voice that is unmistakably his own.

At the same time, there's an immediacy to this music – a direct emotional connection that's rare. Whether it's the nobility of a theme like Leia's, the tension of the Imperial March, or the sense of wonder that runs through so much of this universe, the music meets audiences exactly where they are.

It's a joy to share this with you tonight, and to collaborate once again with these fantastic musicians.

I hope you enjoy the journey!

**Caleb Young**

**Caleb Young** is an American conductor who excels in bringing both American and European classical music to life. Drawing on his training with renowned Finnish conductor Jukka-Pekka Saraste, he merges European classical techniques with a deep appreciation for American composers, offering performances that are both distinctive and powerful. Known for his ability to connect with people both on and off the stage, he creates meaningful experiences for audiences and musicians alike. Highlights of the 2025-26 season include debuts with the Helsinki Philharmonic, conducting a programme which includes the European premiere of John Williams' Viola Concerto with Antoine Tamestit, and with The Hallé in Manchester. He also returns to Kansas City Symphony, Iceland Symphony and Fort Wayne Philharmonic. Last season featured debuts with orchestras including the BBC Concert Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, Israel Philharmonic and the Iceland Symphony, as well as returns to American ensembles including the Kansas City Symphony, Oregon Symphony and Fort Wayne Philharmonic. Other leading orchestras he has worked with include the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Finnish Chamber Orchestra and Tapiola Sinfonietta. He regularly works with luminaries like John Williams and Gustavo Dudamel. In the US, he had an impactful eight-year tenure with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. Starting as Assistant Conductor, he quickly rose to the position of Associate Conductor, where he led over 200 performances and was instrumental in founding the innovative Music and Mixology series, which continues to engage new audiences. Upon his move to Germany, his role evolved into the newly created position of Guest Conductor for Engagement. Recognised by Europe's elite musical institutions, he was named part of 'the next generation of leaders in classical music' by Finland's Fiskars Summer Festival in 2021. This honour included mentorship under maestros such as Esa-Pekka Salonen and Hannu Lintu and culminated in a critically acclaimed performance with the Finnish Chamber Orchestra. He was also awarded the 2016 Ansbacher Fellowship for Young Conductors, a prestigious accolade from the Salzburg Festival and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. A graduate of Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, Caleb holds a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting. His pedagogues include David Effron, Arthur Fagen and John Ratledge. As the founder of KammerMahler, he recently led the ensemble in the world premiere recording of Klaus Simon's chamber arrangement of Mahler's Symphony No. 9.



**Opera North** is England's national opera company in the North. Rooted in Leeds, international in outlook, we're passionate about making opera and music vital for everyone in our communities. We create large-scale productions of operas and classic musicals, like *The Sound of Music* and Verdi's *Rigoletto*, both of which are on at Leeds Grand Theatre later this year. We offer various ticket schemes to make opera accessible to newcomers, including £20 tickets for first-timers, £15 tickets for Under 30s and full-time students, and free tickets for 16-20 year-olds at Leeds performances. Our Learning & Engagement team delivers inspirational activity for children, families, young people and adults of all ages, including high-quality music and singing lessons for more than 3000 children every week. In our own venue, the Howard Assembly Room in Leeds, we create and curate an eclectic line-up of gigs, concerts and events featuring artists from around the globe. At the heart of the Company are the brilliant singers and musicians of our full-time Chorus and Orchestra. Look out for more great film music at Bradford Live this December when we screen *Home Alone* with its iconic score played live by the Orchestra of Opera North.