

Portland Symphony Orchestra

The Music of John Williams
May 11th and 12th, 2020
Merrill Auditorium



PSO

Superman March

Superman March (Main Theme) by John Williams
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VadZSTuFcPo>

Superman March has an introductory melody that is very recognizable and which comes back three more times in the piece. (In this recording, the theme is found at the beginning, at 2:06, at 3:24, and at 3:40 in a new key.) Play the opening theme (through 0:23), then skip ahead to the other three repetitions without playing much of the music in-between. Students will begin to recognize the theme after 5-8 listenings. Focusing on just that short melody, here are 8 activities for various styles of “intelligences” as identified by Howard Gardner.

	K-2	3-6
Word Smart	<p>Choose words to complete these lyrics to the theme:</p> <p>When Superman flies, _____ _____</p> <p>When Superman flies, _____ _____</p> <p>When Superman flies, _____ _____</p> <p>Superman, Superman, _____</p>	<p>John Williams uses a lot of triplets in his compositions, which means that three notes fit into one beat, or sometimes three notes fit into TWO beats. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEtD6jtk0bI Sometimes musicians use a word to represent those triplets, like they say “triple-it” or an invented word like, “tri-o-la.” “Superman” is an example of a 3-syllable word that fits into this musical theme. Can you think of other 3-syllable words that would fit? Can you limit yourself to 3-syllable words that describe the music, or describe flying?</p>
Body Smart	<p>Listen to the music. Does it make you want to stand or sit? Does it feel like your arms should be close to your body, or out wide to your sides? When should you stand still, and when should you move your feet? Are there times in the music when your body wants to move smoothly? Can you find a way to move without making any sound so that you can hear everything in the recording? Try playing a silent game of “Mirrors” with a partner, and see what movements you can come up with together, without talking. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNe-QxsMvoM</p>	<p>John Williams uses a lot of “open” chords, and intervals that are four or five notes apart on the piano. When listening, try moving silently to suggest the open sounds vs. more closed sounds. How does that suggest flying? Can you use your hands and arms to silently describe the music, the way an orchestra conductor does? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjxQWOhAXpg</p>

Superman March (cont.)

Picture Smart	Take a large piece of paper and divide it into three even sections. On the first part, draw an animal or person staying very still. On the last part, draw that same animal or person flying through the air. Now, what will the middle section look like? How will that character get from part one to part three?	Make a flip book of the various stages of a character going from standing still to flying. https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=13&v=Un-BdBSoGKY&feature=emb_logo What parts of the music suggest those stages? Do you need to have extra pages to show times in the music when the flying stops or starts again?
Music Smart	Can you sing the themes of this march? Can you whistle the music?	Can you create a water xylophone to play part of the opening theme of this march? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMGo8O1IFwk
People Smart	This music has been used in a movie to help tell a story. What do you think people are doing in the movie when this music is playing?	How would this music set the mood of a movie scene? Would people be excited by this music in a movie? Or would they be relaxed and calm? Check out this video! (But you can ignore the part at the end when it tells you what you should have felt. That's up to you.) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hc6XO6e1r50
Self Smart	Lots of people can describe what they <i>feel</i> when they hear music, but can you describe what you <i>taste</i> ? Or <i>smell</i> ? Or <i>see</i> ? Does music sound like colors, or shapes, or texture (like smooth or rough?) Listen to this piece and think about whether you would use dark or light colors to draw it. Would you use squares or circles? Would you choose thin, smooth paper, or something rough like a paper bag to draw on?	Synesthesia is when one of your senses (like hearing) is matched at the same time with another sense (like sight). Some people “see” colors when they hear music. Some people “taste” certain words. Here’s an article about synesthesia https://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/syne.html . Can you think of ways in which your senses are linked? Does hearing music make any of your other senses more active?

Superman March (cont.)

Number Smart	This music, along with most other music we listen to, has a steady beat. Sometimes beats are grouped in sets of two, three, or four. Marches usually have beats grouped in sets of two. Here's a math question for you: Why do you think a "march" usually has beats grouped in 2's? (Hint: what body parts move when you march?)	How many beats are in one minute of this piece of music? Can you find other recordings that have more beats per minute? Or fewer? If there are more, what does that tell you about the <i>tempo</i> of the piece? Check out this online metronome https://www.metronomeonline.com/
Nature Smart	What kinds of things in the world fly besides birds? When you hear the music, what kind of flying is in your imagination?	Do all creatures fly the same way? Can you find examples in nature that demonstrate flapping, hovering, gliding, and floating?

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Introduction

Introduction

The epic film compositions of John Williams are a superb example of heart-pounding storytelling through music. This concert features Williams' greatest hits. No other composer has taken us on more adventures using the transformative power of music.

This performance is appropriate for learners in grades 3 to 5.

The Composer

John Williams is perhaps the United States' greatest living composer and very likely the most well known film composer of all time. Williams' incredible filmography lists some of the most famous films of all time including Jaws, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Superman, all 8 Harry Potter movies and all 7 Star Wars movies (so far!). Hang on, there's more; four Indiana Jones movies, E.T. The Extra Terrestrial, NBC's Sunday Night Football, the themes to 4 different Olympic Games and the original theme to Gilligan's Island. Somehow, this is still just a small part of the incredible body of work that John Williams has produced for which he has received 5 Academy Awards, 7 BAFTAS and 22 Grammy Awards. Basically, if you have ever seen a movie, it's very likely John Williams wrote the music to it and if he didn't, someone who loves John Williams did.

The Repertoire

The following pieces will be performed during the concert:

1. Superman March from Superman
2. Theme from Jurassic Park
3. Harry's Wondrous World from Harry Potter
4. Scherzo for Motorcycle and Orchestra from Indiana Jones
5. Flying Theme from E.T.
6. Main Title from Star Wars
7. Jedi Steps and Finale from Episode VII

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Leaders Guide

Reservation Information

- Notify the PSO office at (207) 443-6128 x308 or education@portlandsymphony.org at least three weeks in advance if you are bringing students who need special accommodations i.e. wheelchair access, infrared hearing aid, etc.
- Check your invoice or receipt for the correct date and time of the concert you are attending

On the Concert Day

- **Plan to arrive no later than 15 minutes before the performance time.** Allow sufficient time in your planning and for travel, and for getting the students into their seats for the concert. With so many people arriving and departing at the same time, bus parking and students seating may take a few extra minutes.
- **Bus Travel:** If you are traveling by bus, make sure that the bus drivers know the route to the concert hall. For safety reasons, Myrtle Street is blocked off for busses only. As busses arrive, they are stacked in rows on the street. If a bus drivers needs to drop students off and then come back at the end of the concert, they will be directed by public safety officials as to where to drop the students off and pick them up.
- **Seating Assignments:** Seating assignments will be provided to you on the day of the concert as you arrive at Merrill Auditorium. If arriving by bus, an Event Coordinator will greet you and direct you to your seats. If arriving on foot, an Event Coordinator will greet you in the lobby and take you directly to your seats. Public safety personnel outside the entrance to Merrill Auditorium will direct you the correct door that will use to enter the building. Ushers inside the building will direct you to your seats.
- **Chaperones:** Chaperones must sit among the students to monitor behavior. Any student leaving the auditorium (for example, to use the restroom) must be accompanied by an adult.

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Directions to Merrill Auditorium

Please Share With Your Driver

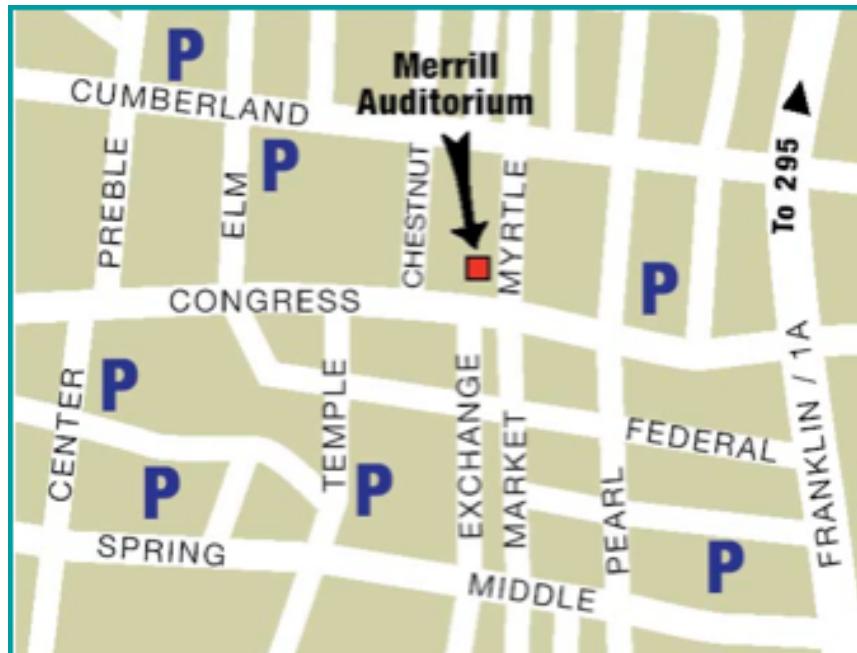
From I-295, take the Franklin Street exit. Go up the Franklin Street Arterial to the fourth light. Turn right onto Congress Street. Go straight through one set of traffic lights and take the next right onto Myrtle Street (Myrtle Street will be barred to all traffic except buses. City of Portland personnel will be directing traffic.) Buses will park on Myrtle Street, then release students and chaperones.

Public Parking Near Merrill Auditorium

Public parking is available: in the Top of the Old Port Lot on Pearl Street, two blocks northeast of Merrill Auditorium; the Portland Public Market Garage on Cumberland Avenue, three blocks south- west of Merrill Auditorium; the Elm Street Garage next to Portland High School, two blocks southwest of Merrill Auditorium; Temple Street which is one block south of Myrtle Street and on Pearl Street and Middle Street.

Concerts are 50 Minutes in Length

In case of inclement weather or parking bans on the day of a concert, take empty buses to one of the following lots: the city lot on Back Bay across from Hannaford, the Portland Expo lot on Park Avenue or the lot behind Union Station Plaza on Saint John Street.



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Concert Behavior

Things to Discuss Before the Concert

- Review and practice appropriate concert behavior before coming to the concert.
- Use the concert guide to help prepare students for the music they will hear. They will get more out of the experience and know what to listen for.
- Have you attended a live orchestra concert? What did you see or hear? How did the music set the mood or affect your feelings?

Concert Behavior

- Arrive early so that you do not miss anything and do not disturb other guests as you get comfortable in your seat.
- It is easier for you and the audience to appreciate the performance if you remain in your seats and be a good listener.
- You are not allowed to eat or chew gum in the theater. Additionally no cameras are allowed in the auditorium and cell phones must be turned off before the performance begins.
- Sing and participate only if you are asked to do so by the conductor. Your participation is very important.
- Be sure to use the restrooms before the performance. There is no intermission at the Youth Concerts.
- Do not leave the auditorium except for emergencies. A chaperone must accompany a student leaving the auditorium and ushers will be at the door to ensure this happens. People will be readmitted only between music selections so as not to be disruptive to those seated in the audience.
- Let the orchestra, conductor, and soloists know you appreciate their hard work with your applause. The conductor will signal the end of a piece by lowering their arms down by his or her side and turning to face the audience.

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What to Expect at a Concert

The Orchestra Warms Up

When you first arrive, you will notice that some of the musicians will be practicing their instruments on stage. They are warming up for the day's concert in the same way that a singer or dancer might warm up before a performance or an athlete may stretch before they join the rest of the team.

The Concertmaster Arrives

After all the musicians have warmed up on stage, the concertmaster, Charles Dimmick, arrives. He is the first violin player and sits in the first chair to the conductor's left. When the concertmaster comes in, he is usually applauded.

The Orchestra Tunes

The concertmaster helps to tune the orchestra by turning to the oboe player and asking the oboist to play the note "A." Then, all the musicians tune by section to the oboe's "A."

The Conductor Arrives

After the orchestra is tuned, the conductor arrives and is often greeted by the applause of the audience. He will stand on the podium and acknowledge the audience and the orchestra with a nod or bow.

The Conductor Leads the Orchestra

The conductor will turn to the musicians and, holding a baton (a small conductor's stick) in one hand; will raise both hands to signal the musicians to get ready to play. The conductor will then move his hands and conduct the orchestra through the music. He will often look at the musical score or book on his music stand, which shows him what each instrument should be playing.

The Concert Ends

When the orchestra has played the entire program, the conductor and musicians take several bows to the applause of the audience. The conductor leaves first, the lights will come on for the audience, and the musicians leave the stage. The concert is over until next time. We hope you enjoyed it and will re- turn to see another concert by the Portland Symphony Orchestra.

Please stay in your seats until you are dismissed by group from the stage.

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About the PSO

Recognized as one of the top symphony orchestras of its size in the country, the Portland Symphony Orchestra (PSO) has a long and proud tradition of providing excellence in live orchestral music. Serving the city of Portland, the state of Maine, and northern New England, the mission of the PSO is to engage diverse audiences in the enjoyment of live orchestral music. Since its founding in 1923, the PSO has built a strong reputation and set the standard in Maine for performances of the highest artistic quality.

The orchestra is comprised of 85 talented musicians, half of them residing in Maine and the rest coming from the greater Boston area, New Hampshire and Vermont. In its 9 years, the PSO has had thirteen music directors and conductors, the latest being Eckart Preu.

The orchestra performs a wide variety of concerts at Merrill Auditorium in Portland and at schools and other venues throughout the state. Concerts frequently feature world-class guest artists and include classical, pops!, “Magic of Christmas” concerts during the December holiday season, and educational concerts featuring chamber ensembles or the full orchestra performed throughout Maine for nearly 30,000 attendees.

Serving the city of Portland, the state of Maine, and northern New England, the Portland Symphony Orchestra is the largest performing arts organization in Maine. Founded in 1923, the orchestra is entering a period of significant evolution with new artistic and administrative leadership. With critically acclaimed performances and broad community engagement, the PSO is widely regarded as one of the top symphony orchestras of its size in the country.

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About Merrill Auditorium

Merrill Auditorium was built in 1912 to replace two former halls both destroyed by fire. City Hall Auditorium was a classic example of colonial style, boasting porticos and columns, a deep court and large wings. Cyrus Curtis, a publishing tycoon, donated the Kotzschmar Memorial Organ, a celebrated instrument with 5,000 pipes of varying sizes that was incorporated into the stage. Many famous performers have graced the auditorium stage, including John Philip Sousa, Arthur Fiedler, George Gershwin, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Vladimir Horowitz, La Scala Grand

Opera Company, Jessye Norman, Marilyn Horne, James Galway, Alvin Ailey, Itzhak Perlman, Van Cliburn, Ray Charles, Bruce Hornsby and Garrison Keiller. Although minor improvements and major renovations occurred in the 1960's, the auditorium continued to be haunted by dismal acoustics and poor sightlines.

Plans proposed by Winton Scott Architects were accepted and renovations began in January 1996.

Today, the re-named Merrill Auditorium is a 1900 seat performing arts facility, located in beautiful downtown Portland, Maine. In less than two years since its grand re-opening, Merrill Auditorium has established itself as one of the premier performing arts centers in the country. During its first full year of operation over 130 events were presented to 175,000 guests. These events covered a broad range of the performing arts including the Portland Symphony Orchestra, PCA Great Performances with names such as Isaac Stern and James Galway, rock n' roll, jazz, comedy, blues, children's programming and of course topped off with Broadway productions. There is also a strong community usage as well with graduations, dance recitals and lectures. Merrill Auditorium has reached two of its goals - to present a thriving mix of programming and to become a true community center, part of the fabric of the community.

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