PART OF THE HARRY POTTER™ FILM CONCERT SERIES



Conducted by Sebrina Alfonso Featuring South Florida Symphony Orchestra

APRIL 5-6, 2024

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"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"

Directed by Chris Columbus Produced by David Heyman Written by Steve Kloves Based on "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" by J.K. Rowling

> Starring: Daniel Radcliffe Rupert Grint Emma Watson John Cleese Robbie Coltrane Warwick Davis Richard Griffiths Richard Harris Ian Hart John Hurt Alan Rickman Fiona Shaw Maggie Smith Julie Walters

Music by John Williams Cinematography by John Seale Edited by Richard Francis-Bruce Produced by Heyday Films, 1492 Pictures Distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures



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 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 44th 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.



SEBRINA ALFONSO - Conductor

Sebrina María Alfonso, a luminary conductor, and the driving force behind the South Florida Symphony Orchestra (SFSO) stands as a testament to the transformative power of music and unwavering dedication. Alfonso, a Key West, Florida native, embarked on her remarkable orchestral journey in 1994 with her New York debut, where she conducted the American Symphony Orchestra at the finals of the Stokowski International Competition in Avery Fisher at Lincoln Center, earning overwhelming favor from the audience, as noted by The New York Times.

Alfonso's musical education, under the guidance of acclaimed mentors like Frederic Prausnitz at Johns Hopkins' Peabody Conservatory, and Harold Farberman and Daniel Lewis at the Conducting Institute, laid the foundation for her extraordinary career. Her talent and passion soon led her to grace the stage with world-class ensembles, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Jose Symphony, American Symphony Orchestra, Prague Radio Symphony, Orchestra Rus de Sienna, the Women's Philharmonic of San Francisco, and the Sphinx Organization. She carved her name in history as the first female conductor of Cuban American descent invited to lead Cuba's premier orchestra, the National Orchestra of Cuba.

After achieving career successes with organizations like Baltimore's Goucher Symphony and the John Carrol Opera Company, Alfonso returned to her roots in 1997. Her mission: to bring orchestral music, of which she did not have exposure to as a child, with its profound educational and cultural benefits, to the southernmost island in the continental United States.

Under her leadership, South Florida Symphony Orchestra has grown to become the region's largest professional orchestra. Celebrating its 26th season, SFSO provides enriching cultural music experiences to residents and visitors in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties. Driven by her belief that music is pivotal to thriving communities, SFSO brings vibrancy and engagement to the arts through innovative programming and transformative educational initiatives. Alfonso initiated the Symphony in the Schools program in 1997, a testament to her commitment to early exposure to classical music, serving over 100,000 under-resourced students to date.

Accolades and recognition for the South Florida Symphony keep pouring in. SFSO was recently named the first Partner in the Arts for The Parker by the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and honored by the Broward County Cultural Division as a "Major Cultural Institution," a distinction earned by only a select few.

Alfonso's dedication to diversity radiates in every facet of her career, as evident in SFSO's purposeful spotlighting of female composers, promotion of diversity within the orchestra's ranks, and her championing of inclusivity among the students served by SFSO. In recognition of her significant contributions, South Florida Symphony Orchestra's President and CEO, Jacqueline Lorber, and Maestra Alfonso were honored at Harvey Milk's Diversity Honors in 2023 and Alfonso was recognized as one of South Florida Business Journal's "Diverse Voices." She leads an equally dynamic life beyond her musical pursuits. She shares her journey with Jacqueline, and her devotion extends to a love for animals, gardening, and crafting beer in her spare time.

Maestra Sebrina María Alfonso is an embodiment of commitment to presenting the finest of symphonic performances and enriching the cultural landscape of South Florida. Her boundless love for music, unwavering passion for growth, and tireless pursuit of excellence continue to elevate her and the South Florida Symphony Orchestra towards even greater achievements, standing as a symbol of inspiration and a beacon of hope for the world of music, consistently pushing boundaries and revealing new dimensions of artistic wonder.