San Diego Symphony

News Release

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Surprise 'Star Wars' Concert by the San Diego Symphony Sends Comic-Con Fans Into Orbit

Original stars Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill greet concertgoers from the Summer Pops stage at Embarcadero Marina Park South

SAN DIEGO—Friday, July 10. While at the San Diego Convention Center, *Star Wars* director J.J. Abrams asked the crowd, "Who wants to see a live *Star Wars* concert right now?" The response was euphoric. More than 7,000 Comic-Con attendees left the Convention Center and descended upon Embarcadero Marina Park South to hear the San Diego Symphony perform a free concert of John Williams' *Star Wars* music.

Prior to the concert, Academy Award-winner and *Star Wars* composer John Williams appeared on video to welcome the crowd and say: "The music tonight will be performed by one of my favorite orchestras, the San Diego Symphony."

The enthusiasm was palpable as the standing-room only crowd waved thousands of lightsabers in anticipation. As dusk settled in, Abrams and Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy, and they greeted the crowd and introduced the *Star Wars* franchise's past and future, bringing out the returning stars of the original trilogy: Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill along with cast members of Disney's upcoming *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

The glorious concert was performed by the San Diego Symphony, led by the orchestra's new assistant conductor, Sameer Patel. While the familiar and thrilling music soared over San Diego Bay, the crowd roared and cheered with delight as video from past *Star Wars* blockbusters along with the grandeur of the San Diego Symphony musicians played on the big screen for the capacity crowd to enjoy.

The evening concluded with the music sending chills throughout the enthusiastic crowd while a thunderous explosion of magnificent fireworks stunned the audience and rivaled the recent Fourth of July celebration.

Stay connected with <u>StarWars.com</u> and the official Star Wars app. All Star Wars, All the Time, Anywhere. Download Star Wars for free from the <u>Apple App Store</u> or <u>Google Play</u>. Star Wars: The Force Awakens is in theaters <u>December 18, 2015!</u>

For more information and to purchase tickets to the San Diego Symphony Summer Pops tickets call the box office at 619.235.0804 or log onto www.sandiegosymphony.com.

The Summer Pops continues through September 6. Highlights include Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, LeAnn Rimes, Ben Folds, Burt Bacharach, Esperanza Spalding, Natalie Cole and the 1812 Tchaikovsky Spectacular.

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Photos of the San Diego Symphony / 'Star Wars' Concert for Comic-Con Fans:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0eszwg2vy6lsl5i/AAC514dTOHzJ-M1ZzwHWVbzQa?dl=0

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