

THE DELUXE EDITION SOUNDTRACK

STAR WARS

THE FORCE AWAKENS



MUSIC BY
JOHN WILLIAMS











I SPENT AN OBSCENE AMOUNT OF MY CHILDHOOD LYING ON THE SHAG RUG OF MY BEDROOM, WEARING HEADPHONES AND LISTENING TO FILM SOUNDTRACKS COMPOSED BY JOHN WILLIAMS.

THIS WAS, OF COURSE, YEARS BEFORE DIGITAL DOWNLOADS, BLU-RAY DISCS AND VIDEO ON DEMAND. THERE WAS ONLY AUDIO ON DEMAND BACK THEN, BUT MR. WILLIAMS' SCORES — WITHOUT IMAGES OR DIALOGUE — WERE COMPLETE AND WONDROUS ADVENTURES. DEEPLY MOVING, PROFOUNDLY EXCITING, EPIC IN SCOPE AND MAJESTY.

HE IS, WITHOUT QUESTION, ONE OF THE GREAT STORYTELLERS OF ALL TIME. HIS MUSIC GRABS US BY THE HEART AND THRUSTS US INTO THE DEEPEST AND MOST PRIMAL EMOTIONAL STATES. HIS SKILL AND HUMANITY, HIS GIFT AND HIS MAGIC, ARE UNPRECEDENTED. THE IMPACT THAT HE HAS HAD ON EVERY FILM HE'S COMPOSED FOR CANNOT BE OVERSTATED.

WHEN KATHY KENNEDY ASKED IF I WOULD CONSIDER DIRECTING *EPISODE VII* OF *STAR WARS*, THERE WERE TOO MANY INCREDIBLE ENTICEMENTS. NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH WAS MY LOVE OF THE WORLD GEORGE LUCAS GLORIOUSLY CREATED. *STAR WARS* WAS, AND REMAINS, A SEMINAL AND PROFOUND IMPACT ON MY LIFE.

BUT THERE WAS MORE: THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH THE PREPOSTEROUSLY WONDERFUL MS. KENNEDY, THE ICONIC SCREENWRITER LAWRENCE KASDAN, AND THE ORIGINAL AND LEGENDARY CAST. BUT THERE WAS ALSO THE ULTIMATE CARROT AT THE END OF THE STICK: THE CHANCE TO COLLABORATE WITH JOHN WILLIAMS.

LISTENING TO STEVEN SPIELBERG TALK ABOUT HIS LONG AND DEEP FRIENDSHIP WITH MR. WILLIAMS ("JOHNNY" AS HE REFERS TO HIM) IS A THING OF BEAUTY. BEFORE PRODUCTION ON *THE FORCE AWAKENS* BEGAN, STEVEN TOLD ME THAT WORKING WITH JOHNNY WOULD EXCEED ALL EXPECTATIONS. THAT HE BECOMES ONLY MORE WONDERFUL AND LOVELIER THE LONGER YOU WORK WITH AND KNOW HIM. THAT HE IS SIMPLY THE BEST.

IN SHORT, STEVEN (PERHAPS THE MOST PASSIONATE AND WONDERFULLY EFFUSIVE PERSON I'LL EVER KNOW) WAS SO HYPERBOLIC ABOUT WHAT THE EXPERIENCE WITH JOHN WOULD BE THAT I WAS CERTAIN HE WAS OVERSELLING IT.

AND NOW, THE COLLABORATION BEHIND US, I SEE JUST HOW MUCH STEVEN UNDERSOLD IT ALL.

YES, JOHN'S SCORE FOR *THE FORCE AWAKENS* IS ACHINGLY WONDERFUL. THE MAJESTY AND BEAUTY OF REY'S THEME, THE DARKNESS AND THREAT OF REN'S, THE LIFT AND EXUBERANCE OF THE RESISTANCE THEME... IT IS ALL BRAND NEW AND YET AN INEVITABLE CONTINUATION OF HIS *STAR WARS* OEUVRE.

I CAN DEFINE HOW PERFECT AND POWERFUL HIS SCORE IS. HOW MUCH JOHN IMPROVED EVERY SCENE HE TOUCHED. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME, WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF LINER NOTES, OR ANYTHING ELSE FOR THAT MATTER, TO PROPERLY HONOR THE MAN HIMSELF.

WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH AND GIFTED BY JOHN WILLIAMS' STAGGERING MUSICAL ABILITY. BUT WHAT MUST BE SAID HERE IS THAT HE IS AS GENEROUS AND GENTLE, AS WISE AND FUNNY, AS CARING AND TIRELESS AS HE IS BRILLIANTLY ACCOMPLISHED.

AND, SOMEHOW, IT'S AS IF WE KNEW IT ALL ALONG.

GO LIE ON A RUG. PUT ON YOUR HEADPHONES. FIRE UP ONE OF MR. WILLIAMS' SCORES, ANY OF THEM, AND CLOSE YOUR EYES. WHAT YOU'LL HEAR ISN'T JUST THE SOUNDTRACK TO A FILM — WONDERFUL, TRANSPORTIVE, IMPOSSIBLE MUSIC. WHAT YOU'LL HEAR IS THE SOUL OF A MAN. A SUBLIME MAN TO WHOM I'VE BEEN GRATEFUL FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

JJ ABRAMS
SANTA MONICA
NOVEMBER 2015





DISC 1

1. MAIN TITLE* *AND* THE ATTACK ON THE JAKKU VILLAGE 6:51
2. KILL THEM ALL 1:52
3. THE SCAVENGER 3:41
4. I CAN FLY ANYTHING 4:07
5. FINN'S TREK 1:44)
6. FOLLOW ME *AND* THE FALCON 7:07
7. THAT GIRL WITH THE STAFF 1:29
8. RATHTARS! 4:06
9. SNOKE 2:06
10. ARRIVAL AT TAKODANA *AND* FINN'S CONFESSION 2:51
11. MAZ'S COUNSEL 4:07
12. THE STARKILLER* 1:51
13. KYLO REN ARRIVES AT THE BATTLE 2:14
14. THE RESISTANCE *AND* REY'S ABDUCTION 3:52

DISC 2

1. HAN AND LEIA 5:50
2. THE BOMBING RUN 2:06
3. INSIDE STARKILLER BASE 2:52
4. TORN APART 4:44
5. THE WAYS OF THE FORCE 4:44
6. THE JOURNEY HOME 2:17
7. FAREWELL *AND* REY'S TRIP 3:53
8. JEDI STEPS *AND* FINALE* 10:05
9. KYLO REN ARRIVES AT THE BATTLE (ALTERNATE) 2:01
10. REY'S ABDUCTION (ALTERNATE) 2:27
11. SCHERZO FOR X-WINGS (CONCERT SUITE) 2:33
12. MARCH OF THE RESISTANCE* (CONCERT SUITE) 2:35
13. REY'S THEME (CONCERT SUITE) 3:10

MUSIC COMPOSED BY **JOHN WILLIAMS**
CONDUCTED BY **JOHN WILLIAMS** AND **WILLIAM ROSS**
*SPECIAL GUEST CONDUCTOR: **GUSTAVO DUDAMEL**







GREETINGS! IN CASE YOU DON'T KNOW ME, MY NAME IS SONICADVENTURE AND I LOVE TO MASTER/REMASTER SCORES. I ALSO LIKE TO LISTEN TO A MUSICAL WORK COMPOSED FOR THE SILVER SCREEN CHRONOLOGICALLY, MEANING, THE ORDER OF THE PIECES SHOULD FOLLOW THE MOVIES' STORYLINE.

AFTER ALL, A BRILLIANT COMPOSER LIKE JOHN WILLIAMS DEVELOPS HIS LEITMOTIFS ALONGSIDE THE COURSE OF THE MOVIES THEY WERE WRITTEN FOR. AT THE SAME TIME HE IS WELL AWARE THAT A SCORE COMPOSED TO ACCOMPANY MOVING PICTURES, DIALOGUE AND SOUND EFFECTS DOESN'T NECESSARILY TRANSLATE WELL TO CD WHERE IT HAS TO STAND ON ITS OWN TWO FEET. AS A RESULT, HE COMBINES TRACKS OUT OF ORDER INTO BIGGER SUITES TO IMPROVE THE LISTENING EXPERIENCE.

FOR *STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS* THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT, AT LEAST NOT FOR ME, I WAS UNABLE TO GRASP HIS INTENTIONS.

USING THE ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK AND THE 'FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION' ALBUM, I ATTEMPTED TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. IT INVOLVED SPLICING UP THE SUITES HE CREATED AND FORMING NEW ONES TO RESTORE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER. BUT BEFORE I COULD DO THAT, I HAD TO MATCH THE SOUND OF THE FYC TO THE OST.

THE LATTER WAS MASTERED BY THE INDOMITABLE PATRICIA SULLIVAN, THE FYC WASN'T MASTERED AT ALL, IT SOUNDED LESS CRISP, LESS BASSY AND THE STEREO SEPARATION WAS TOO MUCH. I ALSO WANTED THE SOUND TO MORE CLOSELY RESEMBLE THE SCORES FOR THE FIRST SIX MOVIES WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING HOW SONIC PREFERENCES AND ADVANCES IN ENGINEERING HAVE CHANGED OR PROGRESSED OVER THE DECADES.

A THIRD GOAL WAS TO IMPROVE THE STAGE IMPRESSION.

OF COURSE, THE END RESULT IS SUPPOSED TO SOUND GOOD ANYWHERE, WHETHER YOU'RE LISTENING WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE, A CAR STEREO OR AN AUDIOPHILE SYSTEM.

IN MY OPINION, I ACHIEVED ALL OF WHAT I SET OUT TO DO.

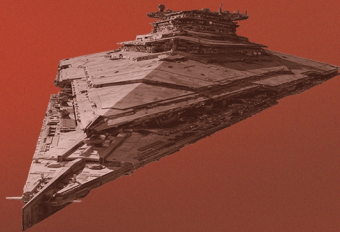
BEFORE YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE QUALITY, LET ME TELL YOU THAT I ALWAYS WORK WITHIN 32/192 AND DON'T LIKE TO USE ARTIFICIAL REVERB OR EXCITERS. FOR ME, LESS IS MORE, ADDITIONALLY, I ONLY WANT TO USE WHAT'S ALREADY THERE. YOU SHOULD NEVER HEAR THE WORK OF A MASTERING ENGINEER, HER/HIS WORK IS SUPPOSED TO BE INAUDIBLE.

A SCORE BY JOHN WILLIAMS DESERVES NO LESS.

WE WERE EXTREMELY LUCKY TO GET THIS IN THE YEAR 2015 WHEN SO MANY SCORES SOUND ANONYMOUS, IT FEELS LIKE A BEACON OF EXQUISITE ART STRANDED IN A DESOLATE DESERT. JOHN WILLIAMS HAS PROVEN ONCE AGAIN THAT HE IS STILL AT THE TOP OF HIS GAME BY CAREFULLY UPDATING THE ORIGINAL 1977 FORMULA TO ACCOUNT FOR CHANGED TASTES 38 YEARS LATER.

WE CREATED THIS EDITION SO THAT EVERYONE CAN ENJOY IT AS BEST AS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HONOUR THE MAN WITHOUT WHOM I WOULDN'T WRITE THIS TEXT: JOHN WILLIAMS, A TRUE MASTER OF THE ART OF FILM SCORING.

SONICADVENTURE
APRIL 2016









I THINK THE FIRST SONICADVENTURE DELUXE EDITION I'VE HEARD WAS JAMES NEWTON HOWARD'S *KING KONG*. I REMEMBER HAVING BEEN REALLY ASTONISHED BY THE VALUE OF PRODUCTION AND TOP NOTCH ALBUM PRESENTATION. SO I DUG A BIT DEEPER AND FOUND EQUALLY GOOD IF NOT BETTER DELUXE EDITIONS FOR HOWARD'S OTHER WORKS *SIGNS*, *LADY IN THE WATER* AND *THE VILLAGE*. AND I WAS ABSOLUTELY FLOORED.

OVER THE YEARS I'VE HEARD MANY SO-CALLED ULTIMATE, SPECIAL, OR WHATEVER YOU WANNA CALL THEM EDITIONS, WHETHER THEY WERE OFFICIAL ONES OR SO-CALLED BOOTLEGS. BUT NOT A SINGLE ONE CAME CLOSE TO WHAT SONIC IS CONTINUALLY PULLING OUT OF HIS HAT.

HIS AUDIO-TECHNICAL ABILITIES ARE UNMATCHED AND WHEN IT COMES TO THE ACTUAL SOUNDING OF CLASSICAL MUSIC, I THINK I HAVE NEVER MET A MORE PASSIONATE AND PROFESSIONAL PERSON BEFORE. HE REALLY CARES ABOUT HIS WORK AND YOU CAN DEFINITELY HEAR THAT IN - AND EVEN MORE SO IN BETWEEN - EVERY SINGLE NOTE.

OF COURSE A CRAFTSMAN IS ONLY AS GOOD AS HIS SOURCE MATERIAL.

I CAN WHOLEHEARTEDLY PRONOUNCE THAT WE'VE GOT THE ABSOLUTELY BEST SOURCE MATERIAL EVER. A COMPLETELY NEW AND FRESH *STAR WARS* SCORE FROM THE GREATEST FILM COMPOSER OF ALL TIME, JOHN WILLIAMS.

WHAT WOULD BE IN AND OF ITSELF ALREADY ENOUGH REASON TO COMPLETELY FREAK OUT ABOUT, IT GETS EVEN BETTER IN THIS WONDERFULLY CRISP AND DYNAMIC SOUNDING SONICADVENTURE DELUXE EDITION. GO GRAB YOUR BEST PAIR OF HEADPHONES AND GIVE IT A LISTEN FOR YOURSELF, YOUR EARS, MIND AND HEART WILL THANK YOU LATER!

I'M CERTAIN A PROJECT OF THIS MAGNITUDE IS WHAT EVERY CREATIVE ARTIST IS SECRETLY HOPING FOR, EVEN IF IT SOUNDS LIKE AN INTIMIDATING THOUGHT AT FIRST. I WAS CERTAINLY WAITING FOR A CHANCE LIKE THIS. AND WHEN SONIC APPROACHED ME TO COME UP WITH SOME ALTERNATE ARTWORKS FOR HIS *STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS* DELUXE EDITION, I LITERALLY JUMPED IN JOY. THIS WAS THE KIND OF UNDERTAKING I'M CRAVING FOR.

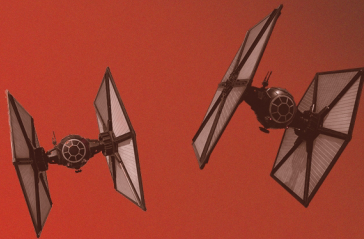
YOU MIGHT SAY THAT I COULD KNOCK OUT CUSTOM COVERS FOR ANY FILM SCORE AT ANYTIME. AND YOU'RE RIGHT, I CAN. AND I OFTEN TIMES DO. BUT IT JUST DOESN'T HAVE THE SAME VALUE AS A COLLABORATION PROJECT LIKE THIS ONE. FLESHING OUT A FULL BLOWN PACKAGE DESIGN FOR THIS DELUXE EDITION GAVE MY WORK MUCH MORE OF A PURPOSE. AND WITH THE *STAR WARS* LOGO ABOVE IT ALL, IT TURNED INTO A REAL LABOUR OF LOVE.

I'M EQUALLY HONORED AND PROUD TO BE PART OF THIS FAN-RELEASE, ALTHOUGH I HESITATE TO CALL IT LIKE THAT. IT IS SO MUCH MORE! IT EASILY SURPASSES A WHOLE LOT OF THOSE OFFICIAL STUDIO RELEASES THAT ARE PUT OUT THROUGH THE YEAR. YOU CAN CERTAINLY HEAR THAT WHEN YOU LISTEN TO IT. AND I HOPE THAT YOU CAN ALSO SEE IT WHEN YOU HOLD THE JEWEL CASE IN YOUR HAND AND EXAMINE MY CAREFULLY CRAFTED ARTWORK.

I'D LIKE TO THANK SONICADVENTURE FOR BEING AS SUPPORTIVE AND PATIENT WITH ME, AS HE HAS BEEN IN THE PAST. AND ALSO FOR BECOMING NOT ONLY A GREAT PARTNER IN CRIME, BUT ALSO A REAL FRIEND.

I'M ALREADY LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR NEXT ADVENTURE.

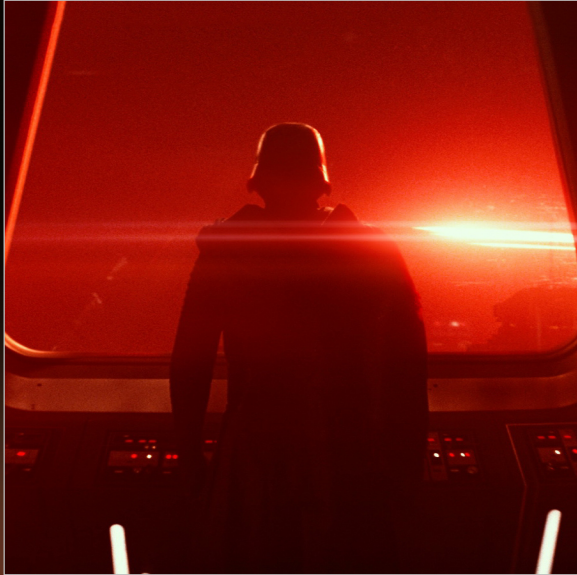
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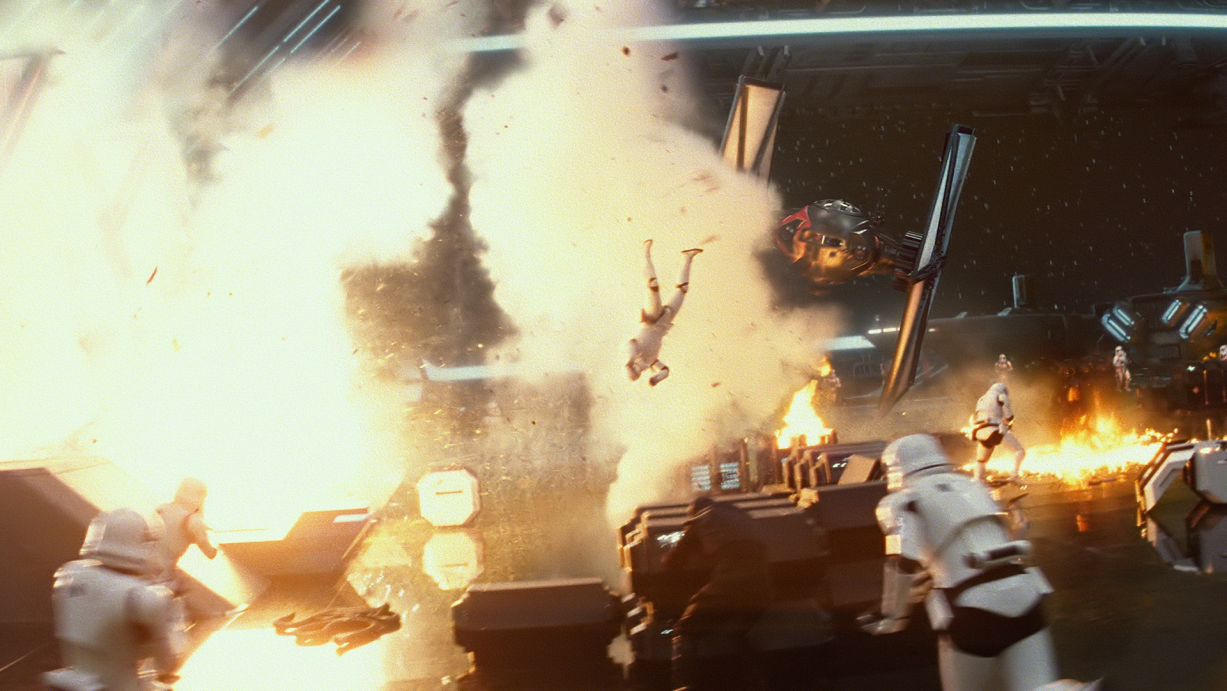












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A LUCASFILM LTD. PRODUCTION A BAD ROBOT PRODUCTION "STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS" HARRISON FORD MARK HAMILL CARRIE FISHER ADAM DRIVER
DAISY RIDLEY JOHN BOYEGA OSCAR ISAAC LUPITA NYONG'O ANDY SERKIS DOMHANN GLEESON ANTHONY DANIELS PETER MAYHEW AND MAX VON SYDOW MUSIC BY JOHN WILLIAMS
VISUAL EFFECTS & ANIMATION BY INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC COSTUME DESIGNER MICHAEL KAPLAN EDITORS MARY JO MARKEY, A.C.E. MARYANN BRANDON, A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNERS RICK CARTER AND DARREN GILFORD DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DAN MINDEL, A.S.C. B.S.C.
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PG-13

StarWars.com/TheForceAwakens

SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE ON

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