



Colorado State University

School of the Arts

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Press Release

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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY FAMILY POPS CONCERT FEATURING THE MUSIC OF JOHN WILLIAMS WITH SPECIAL GUEST RON FRANCOIS, VIOLIN – FREE FOR KIDS IN COSTUME!

Fort Collins, CO – The Colorado State University Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band present a Family Pops Concert featuring the music of renowned American composer John Williams, creator of dozens of infamous movie scores such as *Star Wars* and *Harry Potter*. The concert is on Sunday, May 4th at 3:00 p.m. in Griffin Concert Hall in the University Center for the Arts at 1400 Remington St., Fort Collins.

Enjoy a fun end to the CSU “Windows of Inspiration” music season with a Sunday afternoon pops concert featuring arrangements of Academy, Grammy, Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning composer John Williams. The American composer and conductor’s extremely successful career includes some of the most famous film scores in history including the legendary Steven Spielberg and George Lucas collaborations. Williams has also composed many concert and celebration pieces, themes for four Olympic Games and numerous television programs, and was the Boston Pops Orchestra conductor from 1980 to 1993; he now serves as the orchestra’s laureate conductor.

The thrilling CSU Pops Concert program includes a fast moving arrangement from the 1972 western *The Cowboys*, intensely suspenseful selections from 1993’s *Jurassic Park*; *Prayer of Peace*, the theme from 2007’s *Munich*; the memorable *Harry Potter Symphonic Suite*, *Olympic Fanfare and Theme* from the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, *Hymn to the Fallen* from *Saving Private Ryan*, 1993’s celebratory *Sound the Bells!*, an arrangement of *Schindler’s List* featuring Ron Francois playing the hauntingly beautiful violin solo, the infamous *Stars Wars* medley, and closing with *Midway March* from the 1976 movie *Midway*.

This family-friendly pops concert will be FREE for youth under 17 dressed in a costume from their favorite movie with a John Williams score. Adventurous adults are encouraged to dress up as well (although admission will still be charged). Expect fun surprises throughout the concert including sightings of well-known movie characters, a costume parade, and prizes.

Tickets are \$10 for the public and \$5 for Colorado State students and youth ages 6 to 17 – costumed youth are FREE. Tickets are available from the Campus Box Office in the Lory Student Center, by phone at 970-491-4849, or online at www.csutix.com. Advance purchase is highly recommended, though tickets are available at the door one hour before performances begin.

About Ron Francois, violin

Ronald Francois, Head of the String Division and Associate Professor of Violin at CSU, has performed extensively in his native Canada, the United States, Belgium and Mexico. He maintains a vigorous schedule as soloist, chamber musician, and teacher.

Dr. Francois has held positions in several string chamber groups including the highly acclaimed “I Musici of Montreal” as well as the “Classical Band” with Daniel Heifetz, the “Montreal Young Virtuosi” and with the “McGill Chamber Orchestra”. He is also the former violinist for the “Mendelssohn Trio”.

Dr. Francois received the Bachelor of music from McGill University and both the Master and Doctor of Music Degrees from the University of Maryland. His violin study includes work with concert violinist Daniel Heifetz, Elizabeth Adkins from the National Symphony and David Salness of the Audubon Quartet. He also studied the solo and chamber music repertoire extensively with members of the Guarneri String Quartet.

Dr. Francois has appeared as guest concertmaster of the St-Louis Philharmonic orchestra, the St. Louis Chamber orchestra and has collaborated in chamber music concerts with Boris Garlitsky-Concertmaster for the London Philharmonic, Arkady Fomin from the Dallas Symphony, and pianists John Owens and Seth Carlin. The newly formed “Duo Francois” with his wife and pianist Dr. Silvana Santinelli, has several performances scheduled for 2008 including stops in Texas, Mexico, and Colorado Springs. Dr. Francois joined the CSU faculty in the department of music in the fall of 2002.

For a full performance and event calendar, more information, and to sign up for a free event e-newsletter, visit www.CSUSchooloftheArts.com.

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