



John Williams, Composer

Born: February 8, 1932

Nationality: American

Style/Period: Modern

Famous Works: *Film scores for the following movies: Star Wars, Jaws, ET, Jurassic Park, Indiana Jones Trilogy, and Harry Potter to name a few*

John Towner Williams was born in 1932 in Long Island, New York, the son of Esther and John Williams Sr. He later moved with his family to Los Angeles in 1948. He studied composition at UCLA and later, after serving in the Air Force where he arranged music for the Air Force Band, Williams returned to New York to study piano at the Julliard School of Music. He worked as a jazz pianist for a time before moving back to Los Angeles to begin his career in the film studios. Williams married Barbara Ruick in 1956 and they had three children: Jennifer, Mark, and Joseph. After Barbara's untimely death in 1974, he later married Samantha Winslow.

Mr. Williams has composed the music for close to eighty films and has written some of the most famous themes ever played for cinema. Some of these include *Jaws, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, ET, Jurassic Park, the Star Wars Pre-episode and Trilogy, the Indiana Jones Trilogy, Home Alone, Empire of the Sun, and Harry Potter* films. Receiving 38 Academy Award nominations, Williams has been awarded with five Oscars, four British Academy Awards, Sixteen Grammys and three Golden Globes. He also has several gold and platinum recordings. His film score for *Schindler's List* earned him an Oscar and a Grammy. Williams holds the record for the most Oscar nominations for a living person.

Mr. Williams was named the 19th conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra in 1980, retiring in 1993. He has appeared as guest conductor with many major orchestras, and has also written many concert pieces. Williams was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and was most recently awarded the *American National Medal of the Arts* at the White House in February of 2010.

