

**THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PRESENTS A SCREENING OF STEVEN SPIELBERG'S
TIMELESS CLASSIC *E. T. THE EXTRA TERRESTRIAL*, SET TO A LIVE PERFORMANCE OF JOHN WILLIAMS'S
OSCAR-WINNING SCORE**

Principal Guest Conductor Stéphane Denève leads the orchestra in the performance on July 8. The performance is the second program of the orchestra's six-concert residency, which runs July 7–15.

Vail, CO (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE) – On Saturday, July 8 a Bravo! Vail tradition continues! As dusk falls, Bravo! presents Stephen Spielberg's beloved sci-fi classic, *E.T.*, complete with full dialogue at the Ford Amphitheatre. Bring the whole family to experience the timeless story of childhood adventure and friendship, projected on giant screens over the stage while John Williams' enchanting, multiple award-winning score is performed live by The Philadelphia Orchestra.

As moving today as it was on its 1982 release, *E.T.* is the story of a lonely 10-year old boy named Elliot who finds his first real friend in the most unlikely of places, an alien left behind and alone in a world that does not understand him. Together the two explore the alien universe of grown-ups and discover a remarkable world of possibility where imagination reigns and friendship crosses all boundaries.

Williams's score earned him the fourth of his five Oscars and the seventeenth of his fifty Oscar nominations to date. In addition, the American Film Institute ranked *E. T.* at number fourteen on its list of the greatest film scores of all time. (Williams's scores for *Star Wars* and *Jaws* are ranked at numbers one and six, respectively.)

Part of what makes *E. T.* such an enduringly popular film is the powerful relationship between the story being told on the screen and the story being told through the music — something Williams attributes to a major concession made by Spielberg during the film's scoring process.

One day, Williams was having trouble aligning some of his musical accents with some of the film's cues, which he was watching on a screen in front of him. "I remember it so well," Williams said in *The Music of E. T.*, "Steven coming out to the podium and saying, 'I will take the film off the screen so you can just play the music with the orchestra with its natural phrasing, the way it ebbs and flows in its own way, and then conform the film to what is the best musical performance of that thing.'" Williams noted that Spielberg's gesture was "very unusual" for a director. "[Composers] usually have to slavishly phrase the music to the cuts of the film," he said.

Williams proceeded as Spielberg suggested, and, he said, "when we had the musical performance we felt gave us the most lift and the most sense of exultation at the end of the film, Steven then laid the music track against the film and made a few editorial adjustments to conform to the music."

Spielberg's unusual approach to working with Williams's score undoubtedly contributed to the kind of movie magic that's come to define *E. T.* over the past three-and-a-half decades. "I think part of the reason the end of the film has such a kind of operatic sense of completion — real emotional satisfaction as well as satisfaction from what we see — may be, in part, the result of this wedding of the musical accents with Steven's film editing," Williams said.

IF YOU GO

What: E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial in Concert: Film with Live Score by The Philadelphia Orchestra

When: Saturday, July 8 (special time -7:30PM)

Price: Lawn tickets \$28, Pavilion seats: \$44-\$119

How to Buy: bravovail.org or 877.812.5700