

# John Williams

“Writing a tune is like sculpting.”

John Williams, born in 1932 in New York, is a critically acclaimed American film composer and conductor known for creating the original scores of some of Hollywood’s most iconic films.

After graduating high school, Williams was drafted into the U.S. Air Force where he was assigned as pianist, conductor and music arranger in the U.S. Air Force Band. In 1955, after serving, Williams studied music at the Julliard School and the Eastman School of Music, before heading to Los Angeles to become a session musician.

In the 1960s, Williams was composing music for popular TV programmes such as *Lost in Space*. Recognised for his versatility in composing jazz, piano, and symphonic music, Williams received his first Academy Award nomination in 1967 and won his first Oscar in 1971 for *Fiddler on the Roof* (1971).

In 1974, Williams and director Steven Spielberg began a life-long working partnership on *The Sugarland Express*. The pair have collaborated on over 20 films, including blockbuster hits *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial* (1982), *Jurassic Park* (1993) and *War of the Worlds* (2005).

Williams has penned original scores for more than 128 movies; his notable works include *Superman* (1978), *Home Alone* (1990) and first three *Harry Potter* movies.



## DID YOU KNOW?

John Williams holds the most Oscar nominations record for a living person, with 52 nominations and five wins. He also holds honorary degrees from 21 American universities!

## FUN FACT

In 2005, Williams’s original score for George Lucas’s *Star Wars* (1977) was picked by the American Film Institute as the greatest American film score in history!

## MUSICAL TERM

**Film score:** Instrumental music made specifically to accompany a film in order to enhance the narrative and emotional impact of scenes.

