

## The *Other* MSO every Minnesotan Audiophile Should Hear

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I had the opportunity to once again hear our local home-town orchestra recently perform a wonderful all- John Williams movie music program. No—not the Minnesota Orchestra. I’m speaking about the *Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra*. The MSO is the *other* orchestra local Minnesota audiophiles and music lovers have seemingly never heard of.

And that’s a shame!



The MSO is in its 35<sup>th</sup> season and is an all-volunteer community orchestra that provides free – yes, free – concerts at several venues around the Twin Cities metro area. Typically, they perform in churches, some of which have excellent acoustics. The February 5<sup>th</sup> performance was a one hour free concert performed at St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church, St. John’s campus, in Hopkins. The event was an 85<sup>th</sup> birthday homage to John Williams. The MSO performed the *Raiders March from Raiders of the Lost Ark*; *Adventures from Earth from E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*; and the *Star Wars Suite*.

You all know the music from the films. What you don’t know is how such familiar music is actually staged and performed. You don’t know how I heard the timpanist telling a friend how incredibly hard John Williams’ scores are for a musician to play. You don’t know how textured and detailed his scores are in real life – as it all gets a bit homogenized in even the best recordings. And you *reaaaaally* don’t know is how shockingly dynamic the punch of these scores are to hear live. The crescendos in The Imperial March (Darth Vader’s theme) just about made the audience jump out of their seats! Live music of any kind puts even the best high performance audio gear in its place as the second-best way to hear music.

In case you’re wondering, the MSO is very professional and has soloists that any major orchestra would be proud to showcase. The November performance of Rimsky-Korsikoff’s *Scheherazade* featured a violin solo by concertmaster Barb Savereide that rivalled anything I’ve ever heard on a commercial recording.

I urge you to seek out, attend and support through your donations this wonderful music organization if you live in the Twin Cities. Find their concert schedule at <http://msomn.org/2016-2017-season/>