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## **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Announces Joe Hisaishi Conducts the PSO**

### **Composer of beloved Studio Ghibli Soundtracks debuts with the PSO on two performances September 13 & 14**

PITTSBURGH — Today, the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO) announced that legendary composer and conductor Joe Hisaishi will make his debut with the PSO this September in a two-night special, **Joe Hisaishi Conducts the PSO**, on **September 13 and 14** at Heinz Hall. Hisaishi, who is best known for his epic concert works as well as enchanting film scores, takes to the podium to conduct his own compositions including a new concert version of music from the 2023 Golden-Globe winning Studio Ghibli Film, “The Boy and the Heron,” and the US Premiere of Hisaishi’s work, *The End of the World*. The PSO will be joined onstage by the **Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh**.

The suite *The End of the World* by Joe Hisaishi was inspired by his visit to New York in the fall of 2007. He began composing the work in 2008. The suite explores the theme of "anxiety and chaos" resulting from the collapse of world order and values caused by the September 11 attacks in 2001.

"I am honored to join Pittsburgh Symphony this Fall for the first time," said Joe Hisaishi. "The center of the concert, my *End of the World Suite*, was written for the people of the USA and I'm excited to make the US premiere of this work in Pittsburgh alongside works that reflect on this mood as well as my new *Symphonic Suite* which I'm honored to bring."

Tickets start at \$\_\_ and are available now online at [pittsburghsymphony.org](http://pittsburghsymphony.org), by calling the Heinz Hall box office at (412) 392-4900, or emailing [customerservice@pittsburghsymphony.org](mailto:customerservice@pittsburghsymphony.org).

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### **Joe Hisaishi Conducts the PSO**

Saturday, September 13, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 14, 2025, at 2:30 p.m.

Joe Hisaishi, conductor

Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh

*Countertenor to be announced*

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### **About Joe Hisaishi**

Joe Hisaishi, a composer, conductor and pianist, has established himself as a formidable force in contemporary music, for his delicately crafted symphonic and solo works, as well as his globally successful film music. Hisaishi is greatly in demand as a conductor performing with the most notable symphony orchestras across the globe. With nearly 40 solo albums and over 100 film scores to his name, he is one of the most celebrated composers of our time.

Renowned for his long-standing collaboration with Japanese anime director Hayao Miyazaki and the Studio Ghibli films, Hisaishi has won international awards for his scores. His popular soundtracks for *Spirited Away*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Howl's Moving Castle*, *Kiki's Delivery Service*, and *Ponyo* amongst others, capture his sensitive and imaginative amalgamation of the symphonic, jazz, electronic and minimalist genres. Many of these iconic works have been brought to huge live audiences in his recent sold-out performances in Madison Square Garden, New York over 3 nights, La Defense in Paris and Olympic Hall in Munich. Autumn 2024 sees a

two-day residency at Royal Albert Hall in London where he brings “Hisaishi Symphonic” live shows which includes Princess Mononoke Suite, his Symphony No.2, as well as Britten’s Four Sea Interludes with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Hisaishi is the recipient of both the Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon, received in 2009, and The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, in 2023 by the government of Japan. Hisaishi is Music Partner with New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, and from 2021, Principal Guest Conductor with Japan Century Symphony Orchestra where he is Music Director designate from the 2025/26 season. Hisaishi was also appointed as Composer-in-Association of Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in April 2024.

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