

## Blockbusters 21st Century



## Harry Potter

### Films

- *Sorcerer's Stone* (2001)
- *Chamber of Secrets* (2002)
- *Prisoner of Azkaban* (2004)
- *Goblet of Fire* (2005)
- *Order of the Phoenix* (2007)
- *Half-Blood Prince* (2009)
- *Deathly Hallows* (2010 and 2011)

### Potter Composers

- John Williams
- Patrick Doyle
- Nicolas Hooper
- Alexandre Desplat



## Lord of the Rings

### Trilogy

- *Fellowship of the Ring* (2001) Best Score
- *Two Towers* (2002)
- *The Return of the King* (2003) Best Everything
- Based on novels by Tolkien
- Composer: Howard Shore
- Traditional score mixes action, tragedy, and humor with leitmotifs
- Council of Elrond: Viewer Guide 29.2



## Avatar, 2009

- All time biggest box office hit
- Futuristic vision of technologically
  - Advanced US trying to exploit peaceful planet
  - Ties to contemporary politics are clear
- James Horner nominated for Best Score
  - Partially minimalistic; melodic, but not tuneful
  - Ethnic instruments suggest simple civilization
  - Initiation; Viewer Guide 29.3
    - Uses children's choir for sense of innocence
    - Avatar/love theme heard briefly
    - Minimalist drumming for flying



# The Force Awakens, 2015

- John Williams continues to score
- Familiar themes
  - Force (Obi-Wan Kenobi)
  - Rebel theme = Millennium Falcon
  - Luke = generalized Star Wars
  - Love theme for Han and Leia
- New themes
  - Rey
  - Kylo-Ren
- Abduction or Rey: Viewer Guide 29.1



# The Last Jedi 2017

- Episode 8 of 9
- John Williams (86) composer
  - Another Oscar nomination
  - Full symphony orchestra with leitmotifs
  - Numerous references to previous leitmotifs



# The Avengers



- Ensemble of heroes, including: Iron Man, Thor, Captain America, the Incredible Hulk
- *The Avengers* 2012, Silvestri
  - Third highest grossing film of all time
  - Alan Silvestri composed the score
- *Age of Ultron* 2015, Tyler and Elman
- *Infinity War* 2015, Silvestri
- *Endgame* 2018, Silvestri
  - Highest grossing film of all time
  - Other Marvel heroes, including Guardians, Black Panther