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University of Detroit Mercy, Ask the Professor, Henry Ford, mass production, John Williams, film scores, Star Wars, Jaws theme, Olympic fanfare, curling sessions, fricatives, Dante's Inferno, Minnesota Orchestra, Toto band, yacht rock.

SPEAKERS


Michael Jayson, Heather Hill, Dan Maggio, Dave Chow, Beth Oljar, Stephen Manning, Danielle Maxwell, James Tubbs, Mara Livezey, Matt Mio


M Matt Mio 00:01
The University tower chimes ring in another session of Ask the Professor, the show on which you match wits with University of Detroit Mercy Professors in an unrehearsed session of questions and answers. I'm your host, Matt Mio, and let me introduce to you our panel for today. To my right from the Department of English, it's Professor Heather Hill.


H Heather Hill 00:19
Hey


M Matt Mio 00:20
Hey, Heather, what's going on? Is that a new phone case?

S Stephen Manning 00:23
Oh, geez.


 Dave Chow 00:24
Oh, gee, now you've done it.


 Heather Hill 00:26
Yes . I finally had to trade in my phone. And then I got laughed at at the Verizon store for my old phone.


 Matt Mio 00:33
Oh, for Pete's sake,


 Heather Hill 00:34
He was just teasing me.

 Matt Mio 00:36
It was like, old.


 Heather Hill 00:38
it was one of the little minis. And

 Matt Mio 00:40
okay,

 Heather Hill 00:40
He's like, "Do you want to keep the case as a memento for your tiny little phone?"


 Matt Mio 00:44
Oh my gosh,

 Heather Hill 00:46
yes, this is a new phone and a new phone case


 Matt Mio 00:47
Yeah, I noticed it's a bright orange phone.

 Heather Hill 00:50
I know it was. It's again, out of character for me, but

 Matt Mio 00:53
that's all right. Professor Stephen Manning is here from the Department of -

 Heather Hill 00:57
big is in

 Matt Mio 00:58
corduroy. It's the New Orleans Saints logo on here.

 Stephen Manning 01:02
It is, yes, New Orleans actually.



Matt Mio 01:03

Well, there you go.



Stephen Manning 01:04

Not because I care about the Saints,



Beth Oljar 01:06

but just because it's one of the coolest cities,



Stephen Manning 01:09

kind of like, I mean, I like New Orleans, but not necessarily the saints.



Matt Mio 01:12

Sure, understood. Professor Dave Chow is here from the Department of Medicine Hat



Dave Chow 01:18

pleasure to be here as always.



Matt Mio 01:20

What's going on?



Dave Chow 01:22

Nothing much. Just shoveling 24/7

M Matt Mio 01:24
Yeah, that is for dang sure, absolutely

B Beth Oljar 01:26
You need to take the approach to this of throw money at the problem until it goes away.

D Dave Chow 01:31
Matt's kids won't take my money. That's all.


M Matt Mio 01:34
It's true. It's true. They won't.


D Dave Chow 01:35
I tried to bribe them with food last week, and they didn't even take the hint.


M Matt Mio 01:39
They don't do the work. They don't take the money or do the work.


H Heather Hill 01:42
Thank you. We're out of here.


M Matt Mio 01:44
It's funny too, because I, you know, my extremely literal 13 year old, I said something to him weeks ago, it would have been after Thanksgiving when we got that first big snow, and his interpretation was just the strip of sidewalk in front of your side yard. I'm like, if that's all it was, I'll go do it right now.


 Dave Chow 02:01
No, no, no, no.


 Matt Mio 02:02
One Direction. Other direction, done. Yeah, you mean the whole shebang.


 Dave Chow 02:05
I've been meaning to ask you, I don't know if you've seen the neighbor to the east of me.


 Matt Mio 02:09
Okay,


 Dave Chow 02:10
his sidewalk is immaculate.


 Matt Mio 02:12
Oh, really,

 Dave Chow 02:14
I'm wondering, Is he laying down some

 Matt Mio 02:15
must be working on it


 Dave Chow 02:16
something. Whether he's got heated or -

 Matt Mio 02:19
Interesting,


 Beth Oljar 02:20
We have a snow blower if you need one.

 Dave Chow 02:23
No, no. He I mean, we're talking like right now, it is clear as a bell.

 Matt Mio 02:26
Yeah, that's wild. Professor Jim Tubbs is here.

 James Tubbs 02:30
Hello, hello.

 Matt Mio 02:31
You had a good break, sir.

 James Tubbs 02:32
Had a great break. Yeah?



Matt Mio 02:34

Good, good.



James Tubbs 02:34

And I'm getting ready to have another one the first of February.



Matt Mio 02:38

Where are you going?



James Tubbs 02:39

Well, going to Hawaii for 10 days, and then I'm going to be in Scottsdale for two weeks, so I'll see Diane, Laurie McDonald and yeah, Henny marsky, a number of people.



Matt Mio 02:50

That's nice.



Beth Oljar 02:51

I hate you and everything you stand for




Dave Chow 02:53

No, we just hate you for your residence





Danielle Maxwell 02:55


What island?


 James Tubbs 02:55
Kauai and then the big island,


 Danielle Maxwell 02:57
Okay

 Matt Mio 02:58
Very nice. It's a perfect segue to someone who very recently spent some time in Hawaii.
Professor Danielle Maxwell,

 Danielle Maxwell 03:05
I did. I went for a conference. So work paid for it. It was great.

 Dave Chow 03:09
I can't believe you caught the flight back.

 Danielle Maxwell 03:12
I know I thought about staying there

 James Tubbs 03:14
It was just a mistake.

 Danielle Maxwell 03:15
Yeah.



Matt Mio 03:16

Professor Dan Maggio is here, and we know that the fervor over curling is reaching an almost fever pitch.



James Tubbs 03:24

Oh yes, with the Olympics coming up, yes.



Dan Maggio 03:27

Yep. We will be hosting extra kind of learn-to-curl sessions. You can come to the club, and I think they're short, 45 minute, get on the ice and hopefully you don't fall and kill yourself.



Dave Chow 03:40

Much



Dan Maggio 03:40

we'll be re-upping our insurance for



Beth Oljar 03:42

Mia thinks you should teach her how to curl. She thinks she would be very good at it.



Matt Mio 03:46


She'd be a good stone.





James Tubbs 03:47


Sue told me that so many people are signing up for the days that she goes that -

 Dan Maggio 03:51
You should come. We usually have hundreds of people.


 James Tubbs 03:52
Have a lottery.


 Danielle Maxwell 03:53
Oh yeah.


 Dave Chow 03:54
Are you guys like running like the 711 of curling now? Is it just open 24/7?


 Dan Maggio 03:57
what is?


 Heather Hill 03:58
that many people showing up?


 Dan Maggio 04:01
No. We do shut down at night.


 Stephen Manning 04:07
I think we have a recent crossword clue. What do curlers and witches have in common?


 Beth Oljar 04:14
Brooms


 Danielle Maxwell 04:14
Brooms.


 Dan Maggio 04:15
Yeah, that was in the Mini.

 Stephen Manning 04:17
That was in the Mini. That's the only one we do. We're not smart enough to do the maxies..

 Heather Hill 04:22
Hey, speak for yourself

 Dan Maggio 04:24
It takes too long. The Mini is nice, two minute, one minute sometimes

 Heather Hill 04:30
Five minutes others.

 Matt Mio 04:32
Professor Mara Livesey is here. Just spent a holiday in your new home with your small child.
That's always a very magical time.

M Mara Livezey 04:39
It was absolutely lovely,

M Matt Mio 04:41
Excellent. What was, I mean, I'm even allowed to ask, what was, like, Millie's like, what was the big ticket?

D Dave Chow 04:47
real estate,


M Matt Mio 04:48
I mean did she get a sports car, or, like, a pony?


M Mara Livezey 04:52
right, right Yeah, she liked her paint.


M Matt Mio 04:55
Oh,


M Mara Livezey 04:55
she really likes the paint and the stickers.


M Matt Mio 04:58
That's cool.


 Dave Chow 04:59
A future artist


 James Tubbs 05:00
Your students are big in to the stickers


 Mara Livezey 05:03
Yes, she put so many stickers on her arm that she had her first sleeve.

 Matt Mio 05:08
Oh, my

 Dave Chow 05:08
A future tattoo artist too

 Matt Mio 05:10
She's so hardcore.

 Mara Livezey 05:12
Yeah,

 Matt Mio 05:12
so hardcore

D Dave Chow 05:14
I'll be mentoring in no time.


M Matt Mio 05:15
That's awesome. Very, very cool. Last, but most, certainly not least, Professor Beth Oljar is here


B Beth Oljar 05:22
Good to be here.


M Matt Mio 05:23
Excellent. We're glad to have you, and you had a very nice, peaceful break as well.


B Beth Oljar 05:28
I did, and I got my usual incredibly fat stack of books, so I'm including one I'm particularly intrigued by. IUT's a coffee table book called RENEGADES. Bruce Springsteen and Barack Obama. You remember they did that podcast together, so it kind of collects that, and then, you know, other conversations the two of them have had, and lots of cool photographs, discussing music. So, yeah, really cool.

M Matt Mio 05:56
I can dig it, folks, this is a program. We could send us questions regarding anything. If you stump the panel, you win a prize or maybe a brand new edition of the Ask the Professor coffee mug and an autographed photograph. If you don't stump the panel, we'll still send you the autograph photograph. You can send us the questions in a number of ways. Email us at ATP,@UDMercy.edu, find us on Facebook and Instagram, or listen on your favorite smart speaker by asking it to play. Ask The Professor at University of Detroit Mercy. So Matt Mansour of Waterford, Michigan sent us just three questions, kind of a little bit all over the map, as I like to say, what was Henry Ford's traditionally speaking, inspiration for his mass production system that led to the automotive assembly line.

 Dave Chow 06:41
Cash

 Matt Mio 06:42
Well, yes, okay, partial credit this. There's no way, if my wife were here, there's a story, and there's no way to, like, really know this for sure. But there are a lot of people that said, you know, he brought up blah every time he talked about his inspiration.


 Heather Hill 06:57
He liked watching was ants.


 Matt Mio 06:59
Ants. Is, it's still outside the sphere, but you're closer than you probably

 Dan Maggio 07:05
is it from the animal kingdom, or it's human king.


 Matt Mio 07:07
It's animal based, is what I'm getting at. Yeah,


 Dave Chow 07:10
Is this like a bucket brigade thing?


 Matt Mio 07:12
No, no.


 Beth Oljar 07:13
Bees would be a good example.


 Matt Mio 07:15
No


 Mara Livezey 07:17
Spiders, like apes in a line working on each other.

 Matt Mio 07:20
So there's two kinds of animals

 James Tubbs 07:21
Lemmings,

 Dave Chow 07:22
Lemmings,

 Matt Mio 07:23
There's two kinds of animals. There's live ones, and then there's unalived ones. So if you use the unalived side, you might get to this pretty fast

 Danielle Maxwell 07:32
decomposing animals.

M Matt Mio 07:34
Unalived animals

B Beth Oljar 07:35
they would be dead.

M Matt Mio 07:36
They're dead. Yeah,


H Heather Hill 07:37
the famous zombie making animals, car making animals,


J James Tubbs 07:42
vampires.


M Matt Mio 07:44
So according to tradition, he was obsessed with a Chicago area meat packing plant and how the disassembly, as he called it, of the carcass, took place in a certain order. Yes, so they're unalived, I don't - but not zombie -


B Beth Oljar 08:02
I just thought he read Adam Smith, you know, and, oh, there has to be mass consumption to have mass production.


M Matt Mio 08:08
So sure. The famous literary work by Dante, the Inferno, The Divine Comedy. What did Dante call the lowest level of the inferno?


 Heather Hill 08:18
scum?


 Matt Mio 08:19
It's the ninth circle. If you want to remember, I'll actually accept the Greek name -


 James Tubbs 08:26
the current oval office?

 Dave Chow 08:28
It's called the administration.

 Matt Mio 08:30
or, like what he said it looked like

 Heather Hill 08:32
it's like, what sins they -?

 Matt Mio 08:34
No, that's gonna be the next question, which is what the sins the people who end up there,

 Dave Chow 08:40
plebes, surfs.

B Beth Oljar 08:41
It's not just the ninth circle of Hell?

M Matt Mio 08:43
It's the ninth circle, but it has a Greek name. I mean, I'm not sure there's any way I can give you a clue -

B Beth Oljar 08:48
Greek for what?


M Matt Mio 08:48
He called it Cosytus. I'm sure it's Greek for something. But in particular, what was it? Like, very circle was like fire, or like, you know, earthquakes, or, you know, whatever they got -


J James Tubbs 08:59
Probably the sewer


H Heather Hill 09:00
full of liars. I don't know.


M Matt Mio 09:02
No, it was a frozen lake. So everybody was frozen in the lake, and in the very center of Cosytus was - you only get one guess. If it was the ninth circle.


D Dave Chow 09:13
a fishing shanty.

 Stephen Manning 09:14
Ice fishing.


 Matt Mio 09:15
Yes, yes,


 Dave Chow 09:15
the fishing shanty.


 Mara Livezey 09:16
The devil himself.


 Matt Mio 09:17
It was Lucifer. It was Lucifer himself.


 Beth Oljar 09:20
Where was I gonna go, Detroit?


 Matt Mio 09:22
Nice.


 Heather Hill 09:23
I don't know. Maybe Satan


 Matt Mio 09:25
The ninth circle was reserved specifically for the ultimate traders, people who said one thing but did something else.


 James Tubbs 09:35
Hmm - We don't know anyone like that.

 Matt Mio 09:37
The Great deceiver


 Beth Oljar 09:38
That's right, he was an angel, and then he turned bad.


 Matt Mio 09:42
That's right. Did you know that Dante died before he finished the Divine Comedy?


 Heather Hill 09:47
Mm-hm


 Matt Mio 09:47
How did the last sections of Paradiso, the final part ultimately get finished?


 Danielle Maxwell 09:54
Ghost Writer


 Matt Mio 09:56
it's not that easy

 Heather Hill 09:57
his wife?

 Stephen Manning 09:59
not a wife, no, no, no.

 Heather Hill 10:03
How do they get-

 James Tubbs 10:04
one of his frightened kids?

 Heather Hill 10:07
Well, you know, you're closer than you think, Jim. The bottom line is, it didn't ever get finished. He had more to write, and they didn't; but he was passing away. He was ill, and basically gave everything to his buddy, who apparently sat on it for a while. It was like, "Oh!", and gave it to the kids after that, and so

 Dave Chow 10:23
I was waiting for like James Clavell or somebody like that.

M

Matt Mio 10:26

Did not ever actually get finished. Okay, we've got another single question. These are just always fun. Our chair of English, Mary Catherine Harrison is asking, how many fricatives are there in the English language. How many fricatives are there?

D

Danielle Maxwell 10:42

Can you define a fricative?

B

Beth Oljar 10:43

It's a particular combination of letters,

M

Matt Mio 10:46

It's a combination of letters. I can give you an example. So a fricative is a consonant sound produced by forcing air. So the first example is the "F" in fun is a fricative.

B

Beth Oljar 11:01

Okay.

M

Matt Mio 11:01

So how many different sounds are there that are fricatives in the English language total?

D


Dan Maggio 11:07


C,

M


Matt Mio 11:10


so one of them is the s sound, as in the word sun. So you found another one. We've got 2


 Stephen Manning 11:16
P


 Matt Mio 11:18
nope, I think that that's not. It's because it's a sustained push of air. So it's not just one instance.


 Dan Maggio 11:25
How about shoe?

 Matt Mio 11:29
yes, shh is one of them, like in ship or shoe

 Dan Maggio 11:32
Or shhh-ingles. (The professors laugh)

 Beth Oljar 11:33
Nice save.

 Matt Mio 11:38
That's pretty awesome. Oh my gosh.

 Dave Chow 11:40
Michael had the hand on the red button.



Matt Mio 11:42

That is hilarious. So for the record, profs, there's nine total. Those are actually voiceless. There are voiced ones as well. The ones that are higher pitched, for instance, like the "zh" are known as sibilants, s, i, b, i, l, a, n, t, s.



Beth Oljar 12:20

I feel better now that I know that.



Danielle Maxwell 12:22

It's like phonics with Matt. So much fun.



Matt Mio 12:25

Fricatives are fun.



Dan Maggio 12:26

That's interesting.



Matt Mio 12:27

And they all have very special non Roman character, you know, examples like when you see a schwa and stuff like that. They're all totally wild. These, in measure is my favorite. That's all I got to say. Okay, we got a set of questions. I actually wrote these questions. I couldn't help myself. We got into something today, and then they just poured right out of my brain. These are questions that are all about my favorite, most prolific movie score writer and conductor, John Williams.



James Tubbs 12:55

Oh, okay.

M Matt Mio 12:56
John Williams is a very famous guy, and so we can see what we got here.

B Beth Oljar 12:59
Interesting story about his doing the score on Schindler's List.

M Matt Mio 13:04
What is it?


B Beth Oljar 13:07
I think, when Spielberg showed him a cut of the film, he said, "I can't write a score for this. I don't know anyone who could write a score for this". And Spielberg said something like, "All the people who could score this are dead". He's like, "Well, John, there's just you. So I guess, I guess you're gonna do it."


J James Tubbs 13:28
And he did a great job,


B Beth Oljar 13:29
yeah.


D Dave Chow 13:30
And then back in the day, he was also Johnny Williams, too. When he was doing the jazz scores,


M Matt Mio 13:33
Still Johnny. He's still Johnny. What event was celebrated by John Williams conducting an orchestra in 2023? Just to give you an idea, he was approximately 93 or 94 at that time


 Heather Hill 13:46
July 4th?


 Matt Mio 13:47
I mean, you're close. It was an anniversary of a very specific band,

 Dan Maggio 13:52
band?


 Matt Mio 13:53
band,


 Dave Chow 13:54
The Boston Pops?


 Matt Mio 13:55
Not the Boston Pops, although that's a good guess.


 Dave Chow 13:57
London Philharmonic


 Matt Mio 13:58
Not the London Philharmonic


 Dan Maggio 13:59
The Beatles?

 Matt Mio 13:59
not the Beatles. It was the 225th anniversary of this band.


 Dan Maggio 14:04
Is it one of the armed forces?

 Matt Mio 14:07
I mean, you're really close, Dan, it's the Marine Band, the one that's called the President's own, the one that plays "Hail To The Chief" so 225 years,


 Beth Oljar 14:15
Those guys drill like nothing. I mean, it's amazing.


 Matt Mio 14:19
Which orchestra performs John Williams tributes most frequently? This made me laugh.


 Heather Hill 14:23
Which Orchestra?


 James Tubbs 14:24
London Philharmonic,


 Matt Mio 14:25
it's not-


 James Tubbs 14:26
L-A?

 Matt Mio 14:26
that's like a very logical guess. L-A is a logical guess. The Boston Pops would be a very logical guess, but it is not

 Beth Oljar 14:33
New York Philharmonic?

 Heather Hill 14:35
Is it something humorous?

 Matt Mio 14:38
There's no question that this state is the number one news story in the United States for the last few days.

 James Tubbs 14:43
Minnesota

 Matt Mio 14:44
The Minnesota orchestra plays John Williams tributes more frequently.

D Dan Maggio 14:47
Was he born there?

M Matt Mio 14:48
I'm not sure. I don't think so. Harry Potter's Hedwigs theme, (You've got to think about these things, right?), The Empire Strikes Back Imperial March and the main theme to Jurassic Park are thought to be separate from Williams' Score for Minority Report. Why? You have to think about what these pieces sound like to be able to answer this

J James Tubbs 15:12
They're in a minor key?


D Dave Chow 15:14
A lot more woodwind.

M Matt Mio 15:14
It's a good guess. It's a good guess. They're actually different kinds of music, if that helps you, because I can't think of what The Minority Report theme was.


B Beth Oljar 15:23
Me neither, and I own the movie.


D Dan Maggio 15:26
Is it the instruments that are being played, Matt?


M Matt Mio 15:28
I'm sorry,

 Dave Chow 15:29
it could be played on a kazoo,


 Dan Maggio 15:30
The instruments that are being played.


 Matt Mio 15:31
I mean, we've heard it in a couple different ways. I would say that's the closest


 Dan Maggio 15:35
drums.


 Matt Mio 15:36
Harry Potter. Empire Strikes Back, Jurassic Park. They're all classified as classical music.


 Dan Maggio 15:40
Oh,

 Matt Mio 15:41
and Minority Report is more modern, so it's not exactly -

 Dan Maggio 15:45
he didn't do the score for Harry Potter. Did he?


 Matt Mio 15:48
Yeah


 Danielle Maxwell 15:48
Yeah he did


 Dan Maggio 15:49
Maybe we should have a question - "Name a movie that he hasn't done".

 Matt Mio 15:53
Wait, do you see a few more of these I got coming here.


 Dan Maggio 15:55
Does he get royalties from all this?


 Dave Chow 15:57
Oh yeah

 Matt Mio 15:59
What is widely regarded to be John Williams' first break with a big name director in 1966? I have never heard this before.


 Dave Chow 16:07
Woody Allen?


 Matt Mio 16:07
the director was Willie Wyler,


 Dave Chow 16:10
Who ?


 James Tubbs 16:11
William Wyler


 Matt Mio 16:12
1966


 Heather Hill 16:12
Billy Wyler?

 Matt Mio 16:13
I've never heard this movie before.


 Beth Oljar 16:16
I mean, I've heard of him


 Heather Hill 16:18
66


 Matt Mio 16:19
66


 Beth Oljar 16:20
the year of my birth.


 Matt Mio 16:22
I wasn't gonna say it, but


 Beth Oljar 16:24
I know he'll be 60 in April.


 Dave Chow 16:26
Small potatoes, just a number.

 Matt Mio 16:30
The name of the movie was How to Steal a Million. I've never heard of it.


 James Tubbs 16:33
Oh,


 Dave Chow 16:34
obviously he's learned

 Matt Mio 16:36
the very first movie score that charted - actually got on whatever you want to call it now, the Billboard Hot 100 - for John Williams was 1978

 Dave Chow 16:46
Star Wars?


 Matt Mio 16:48
no

 Dave Chow 16:49
Close Encounters.

 Matt Mio 16:50
1978. Close Encounters of the Third Kind is what it was

 James Tubbs 16:55
I can't believe that Star Wars didn't - because that was 77

 Dave Chow 17:00
Well, no, no. But actually, when you think about it - remember when that one band, Meco, took it over - Did the disco version of Star Wars?

 James Tubbs 17:07
Oh, yeah.

M Matt Mio 17:08
What is the first film by Steven Spielberg, scored by John Williams - 1974? I've never seen it, but I know its name.

B Beth Oljar 17:17
Savage?

M Matt Mio 17:17
It's not


D Dave Chow 17:22
1941


M Matt Mio 17:23
no, it includes a classic baking ingredient, like the main baking ingredient,


B Beth Oljar 17:29
oh, Sugar Land Express.


M Matt Mio 17:31
Sugar Land Express, there we go. You got it. Alright, this should be fun.


D Dave Chow 17:35
Was that the roller skating one?


 Matt Mio 17:37
Oh, you're thinking of Starlight Express,


 James Tubbs 17:40
yeah, Starlight Express,


 Beth Oljar 17:41
or Skatetown, USA

 Dave Chow 17:43
or Xanadu.

 Matt Mio 17:44
Which John Williams track is inspired by an old Welsh poem and read in Sanskrit? This is a good piece of Julia.

 Heather Hill 17:52
Could you repeat the question? I'm so sorry.

 Matt Mio 17:54
Which John Williams track is inspired by an old Welsh poem and read in Sanskrit by the choir singing the song. So great.

 Beth Oljar 18:02
Read in Sanskrit.

H Heather Hill 18:04
Is it a Christmas thing?

M Matt Mio 18:06
It is a Star Wars song.

D Dave Chow 18:08
Oh, the cantina.

H Heather Hill 18:11
That's a good guess

B Beth Oljar 18:14
whatever Jabba the Hut is playing when he's got-

H Heather Hill 18:17
so it's sung in Sanskrit.

M Matt Mio 18:19
It's sung in Sanskrit. You know,

D Dave Chow 18:21
I'm thinking the cantina. That's about the whole part,

J James Tubbs 18:23
but that's not sung either.

M Matt Mio 18:27
There's not many choral pieces from Star Wars. Let's be serious. It's, it's from episode one, The Phantom Menace. It's called duel of the fates.

J James Tubbs 18:35
Oh,

M Matt Mio 18:35
I guarantee that you

D Dave Chow 18:36
Jar Jar sang it

M Matt Mio 18:37
exactly which Alfred Hitchcock film, by the way, the last one that Hitchcock ever made. Did Williams score?

B Beth Oljar 18:43
Family Plot.

M Matt Mio 18:44
Family Plot. You knew it right off the top.

B Beth Oljar 18:46
I know it was the last film that Hitchcock may I'm pretty sure I saw it in a drive in

M Matt Mio 18:51
I found -

J James Tubbs 18:53
and you watched the movie?

B Beth Oljar 18:57
Ummm Yes,

M Matt Mio 19:01
Beth, you'll appreciate -

B Beth Oljar 19:02
There was a drive in instance where I was not really watching,

D Dave Chow 19:07
whoa.

B Beth Oljar 19:08
Different movie.

M Matt Mio 19:08
Different movie.

D Dave Chow 19:09
There was a movie,

M Matt Mio 19:10
oh. John Williams remembers his time working with, quote, unquote, the greatest director of all time, because Hitchcock's direction to him was, remember Johnny murder can be fun. That's what Hitchcock told him. I just love that.

B Beth Oljar 19:27
That sounds like Hitchcock,

D Dave Chow 19:29
yeah?

M Matt Mio 19:29
What famous classical piece did John Williams say inspired such a great piece of music, holiday flight from home alone. It sounds exactly like

D Dave Chow 19:40
flight of the valkyrie

M Matt Mio 19:41
Put them right next to each other,

H Heather Hill 19:42
sugar plum fairies.

M Matt Mio 19:44
I mean, it is. It's actually Nutcracker, but it's the Russian dance where the guy spins faster and faster because they're running to the gate, you know, for the flight. Oh, man, that's such a great

D Dave Chow 19:53
it's our theme song, isn't it?


H Heather Hill 19:54
Yeah,

M Matt Mio 19:55
yeah. How many films has John Williams scored and how. The Oscar nominations does he have?


J James Tubbs 20:02
Oh, good, great.

B Beth Oljar 20:02
Say 30 or 40 nominations.


M Matt Mio 20:07
Okay, so I got lots of numbers, but we'll do how many films has he scored?


 Stephen Manning 20:11
65


 Dan Maggio 20:12
120

 Matt Mio 20:13
we'll go closer to 120 it's over 100 by some estimations. How many Oscar nominations does he have

 Danielle Maxwell 20:20
47


 Stephen Manning 20:21
65

 Beth Oljar 20:22
more than anybody else?


 Matt Mio 20:23
You said 47 I'm just gonna give it to you. It's basically over 50, and only one person has more in history. Who is-

 Beth Oljar 20:29
Walt Disney?


 Matt Mio 20:30
Walt Disney? Yes, exactly so.


 Dave Chow 20:32
And Walt's known-


 Dan Maggio 20:33
how many has he won, you know?

 Matt Mio 20:35
it doesn't say that's a good question. That's actually a good question

 Heather Hill 20:37
I thought you wrote the question

 James Tubbs 20:41
the person who wrote the questions does not know,

 Beth Oljar 20:46
plus the jaws,

 Dave Chow 20:47
no footnote

B

Beth Oljar 20:48

With the jaws. Theme, okay? Because they had so many problems with the shark, right? Every Richard Dreyfus is like every five minutes it was the shark is not working. The music. Had to carry the terror which, of course, it does. You hear it.

M

Matt Mio 21:09

I love where you're going with this. The very next question is, what two notes are the jaws theme?

D

Dave Chow 21:15

Steven, help it out.

M

Mara Livezey 21:21

I don't know, is it a half step, like a half step apart from each other?

M

Matt Mio 21:24

It says full step here, but I'm looking for actually letters, if you can believe

D

Danielle Maxwell 21:28

c and d

M


Matt Mio 21:30

it's e and f its like, that's all you need to play on the piano. I love it.


B


Beth Oljar 21:36


Still the best opening sequence in a film ever.


 Matt Mio 21:40
No question about it. What iconic song I'm looking in a Dan maggio direction, did Williams compose that we're about to hear for about 16 days straight,


 Dan Maggio 21:52
the Olympic fan-


 Matt Mio 21:53
The olympic fanfare


 James Tubbs 21:56
And the NBC News Song and the NBC own Olympic tune that they use,

 Danielle Maxwell 22:03
very nice.


 James Tubbs 22:04
He did a lot of stuff.


 Beth Oljar 22:05
Are you prepared for ice skating and ice dancing?


 Dan Maggio 22:08
I'm doing my best.


 Matt Mio 22:11
I just, I'm very excited about hockey and curling and skeleton


 Danielle Maxwell 22:17
and the department tree. You're very excited about?


 Matt Mio 22:18
Oh yes,

 Danielle Maxwell 22:19
well, why don't you let everybody know about the department tree? Yes, my goal is to have a new theme every month for the entire years. We'll always have a Christmas tree up, but we have a Blue Christmas tree with flags from around the world. And then I took medals, and I cut off the lanyards and I made the medals into ornaments. So we have one, two and three, like first, second, third.

 Heather Hill 22:35
Cool.

 James Tubbs 22:36
How many of them are Nobel Peace Prizes?

 Danielle Maxwell 22:38
All of them.

 Beth Oljar 22:40
And will you give it to Donald Trump your Nobel Peace Prize?

D Danielle Maxwell 22:44
Never, ever,

B Beth Oljar 22:45
yeah,

D Danielle Maxwell 22:46
never, ever, ever.


M Mara Livezey 22:46
Will you update it as the United States wins more and more medals.


J James Tubbs 22:51
I think that FIFA gold medal I'm waiting. I'm wondering how long it's going to take him to peel off the gold and eat the chocolate. You know, underneath


B Beth Oljar 22:57
they are as corrupt in an organization as you could imagine, according to my football obsessed spouse,

M Matt Mio 23:05
That's true. This was the only thing that I didn't, at least have an alignment of knowing when I put these questions together. And I think it's spectacular, which famous 1980s rock and roll band lead singer is John Williams. Son, this is great.


D Danielle Maxwell 23:23
Is the last name Williams?

 Matt Mio 23:25
Yes,


 Danielle Maxwell 23:25
kallie williamns


 Matt Mio 23:26
tell you it's Joe Williams, but that's not gonna help you what band was Joe Williams?

 Beth Oljar 23:34
It's some like Rage Against the Machine type ish

 Dave Chow 23:38
Toto, or

 Matt Mio 23:39
it's Toto, John Williams,

 Beth Oljar 23:42
son from my yacht rock documentary, because they're, I mean, Toto is huge, yeah,

 Dave Chow 23:49
Toto is like-

B

Beth Oljar 23:50

in yacht rock

D

Dan Maggio 23:53

not right music for that band,

M

Matt Mio 23:55

no. And actually, I uncovered a piece of trivia that I did not turn into a question that if I let my wife know, she will lose it, she will flip out,

B

Beth Oljar 24:04

right?

M

Matt Mio 24:04

He and his son collaborated on one piece of music their whole career. He's still alive, by the way. I mean, he's in his mid, late 90s, or whatever. John Williams, he and Joseph Williams, collaborated on one piece of music that ended up in a Star Wars movie. It was the only major piece of music cut out by Lucas's reissues of the movies. It was the old song that the Ewok sang at the end when they won, and it was very tribal, and they cut it all out and replaced it with something else.

B

Beth Oljar 24:33

So is he the guy singing lead on hold the line?

M

Matt Mio 24:37

I think so. Well, I was, I was thinking more Africa, but yeah,

B Beth Oljar 24:40
oh, he's not the lead singer on that.

M Matt Mio 24:42
Oh, I don't know. I don't know. It's just, I'm just, tot, what I am

D Dave Chow 24:45
Toto is-


M Matt Mio 24:46
yeah.


D Dave Chow 24:46
I mean, they've done everything, you know, wasn't even like Quincy Jones's backup band, pretty much for


M Matt Mio 24:50
basically,


B Beth Oljar 24:51
they're all of them. All of the members of toto were routinely working as studio musicians, and so that, hence the connection to Steely Dan,


M Matt Mio 24:59
right?


 Beth Oljar 25:00
Famous for hiring,


 James Tubbs 25:01
but none of them ever figured out what a leprous actually is.


 Matt Mio 25:05
Which Steven Spielberg film as it stands in 2026 the only Spielberg film that John Williams has not scored. What is it? And it makes a lot of sense when you hear about it,

 Heather Hill 25:17
not eat. No-

 Beth Oljar 25:19
Lincoln,

 Matt Mio 25:20
no.

 Dave Chow 25:20
1941

 Matt Mio 25:21
Nope.

B Beth Oljar 25:22
The Color Purple,

M Matt Mio 25:23
the color-

D Dave Chow 25:23
Ah, that's right Quincy jones,

M Matt Mio 25:24
which was Quincy Jones, who actually did-

B Beth Oljar 25:27
I've never seen that movie.

J James Tubbs 25:28
Oh, it's great. It's a great Oprah is one of the best things in it

B Beth Oljar 25:34
She has talent for sure. I think. What an actress Oprah.

J James Tubbs 25:38
Oh, yeah. Incredible. Yep.



M

Matt Mio 25:41

One more question. I'm glad that we had at least a little bit of fun, because what I really want to do is, like, press a button and like, play music for your wall to listen, and then Michael's gonna start sweating, because we can only do it for 5.2 seconds without having to



H

Heather Hill 25:53

these are amazingly wonderful questions.



J

James Tubbs 25:56

You could sing them for us,



D

Dave Chow 25:58

hum them.



M

Matt Mio 25:59

Gonna sing the Star Wars theme for you



D

Dave Chow 26:00

bring a kazoo.



M

Matt Mio 26:01


Last question, how does the legendary John Williams compose all his music?





D


Dave Chow 26:08


Very well,


 Heather Hill 26:09
on yellow lines


 James Tubbs 26:10
at the breakfast table,


 Mara Livezey 26:11
in his head,


 Dave Chow 26:12
in his pajamas,


 Matt Mio 26:13
probably all true at some level, he has scored every single thing with a piece of paper and pencil


 Dave Chow 26:20
Analog i like that


 Beth Oljar 26:21
Do have to write notes.


 Matt Mio 26:23
Incredible, yeah, but he's never, like, gotten an iPad or something like that. You know what? I mean, it's like,


 Dave Chow 26:27
Never too late,


 Beth Oljar 26:28
does it old school


 Matt Mio 26:29
He does it old school

 Beth Oljar 26:30
I'm sure Harry Mancini did the same, or Henry Mancini, Mancini did the same thing.


 James Tubbs 26:34
Well, he had to


 Beth Oljar 26:36
why?


 James Tubbs 26:37
Because he was before the era which he had any electronic options.


 Beth Oljar 26:42
Could you imagine the Pink Panther theme being written anyway other than-


 Matt Mio 26:48
maybe we should just get Jim to do all the music.

 Stephen Manning 26:51
I have a hard time writing that way though. You know, the thing is up there and writing,


 Matt Mio 26:55
yeah, when your playing something and









 Stephen Manning 26:58
whatever lap-


 Matt Mio 26:59
I won't even get into like, how some of the most famous pieces of music/movie music of all time, like, literally took him 15 minutes to put together. He just has things going on up there that regular folks don't.


 James Tubbs 27:11
He has a great imagination.


 Matt Mio 27:13
Absolutely,

 Beth Oljar 27:14
You were making fun of my yacht rock documentary.

-  **Heather Hill** 27:16
No no, no, no no. His brother really likes yacht rock. So I should find out the title of this documentary.
-  **Matt Mio** 27:24
There you go.
-  **Stephen Manning** 27:25
It's indicative of ,you know, the two different roads travelled between my brother and I
-  **Matt Mio** 27:31
Hopefully someone will send us some Doobie Brothers questions soon enough, but until then -
-  **Beth Oljar** 27:36
that'd be great.
-  **Matt Mio** 27:36
The time has come for us to say goodbye. Beth,
-  **Beth Oljar** 27:39
Goodbye.
-  **Matt Mio** 27:40
Mara,


 Mara Livezey 27:40
see ya.


 Matt Mio 27:41
Dan,

 Dan Maggio 27:41
goodbye.


 Matt Mio 27:42
Danielle,


 Danielle Maxwell 27:42
adios,


 Matt Mio 27:43
oh, that's a challenge. Jim,

 James Tubbs 27:44
farewell.


 Matt Mio 27:45
Dave,


 Dave Chow 27:45
see ya.

 Matt Mio 27:46
Stephen,

 Stephen Manning 27:46
goodbye.

 Matt Mio 27:47
And Heather,

 Heather Hill 27:48
thank you and thank you for the questions.

 Matt Mio 27:49
Thank you. And now these words,

 Michael Jayson 27:51
You can email Ask The Professor at ATP@UDMercy.edu, or visit the Ask the Professor Facebook page,

 Matt Mio 28:01
Ask The Professor is produced and directed by Michael Jayson and Brian Maisonville, and our executive producer is ProfessorJason Roche. Until next week, I'm your host Matt Mio.