

Joe Hisaishi -Biography

Composer, Conductor, Pianist

Hisaishi began his career as a contemporary music composer and started to develop his unique style in minimal music when he graduated from conservatory in Japan. Presentation of MKWAJU in 1981 and the release of his first album Information in the following year was the kickoff of his career as a solo artist. Since his debut, he has released nearly 40 solo albums, including Minima_Rhythm (2009), Melodyphony (2010) and Minima_Rhythm 4 (2021). The first album A Symphonic Celebration released from Deutsche Grammophon (2023) hit number one on US Billboard Classical Albums and Classical Crossover Albums Chart twice.

Starting with Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind (1984), Hisaishi has produced music for Hayao Miyazaki films, including My Neighbor Totoro (1988) and The Boy and the Heron (2023). He also composed the music for HANA-BI (1998) directed by Takeshi Kitano, Departures (2008) directed by Yojiro Takita, Villain (2010) directed by Sang-il Lee, The Tale of Princess Kaguya (2013) directed by Isao Takahata, What A Wonderful Family! series (2016/2017/2018) directed by Yoji Yamada. He has collaborated on the music production of over 80 films at home and abroad. He has won many awards including several Outstanding Achievement in Music prizes of Japan Academy Film Prize, the Outstanding Music in an Animated Feature Production at the 30th Annie Awards (Spirited Away), the Best Original Film Music Award of the 4th Korean Film Award (Welcome to Dongmakgol) and the Best Original Film Score of the 27th Hong Kong Film Award (The Postmodern Life of My Aunt), the Best Original Music of the 12th Asian Film Award (Our Time Will Come), and the Winsor McCay Award at the 51st Annie Awards in 2024.

In 2004, he assumed a post of first music director of New Japan Philharmonic “World Dream Orchestra (W.D.O.)”, newly formed orchestra project by New Japan Philharmonic. Since 2014, he has been working as a producer and conductor, and holding contemporary music concerts called “JOE HISAISHI presents MUSIC FUTURE”, which concert series earned him enormous popularity and records as a live album. In 2019, he also started leading a concert series “Future Orchestra Classics (FOC)” and released Beethoven: Complete Symphonies that was given “Special Prize” from 57th Record Academy Award Japan 2019. The world tour “Joe Hisaishi Symphonic Concert: Music from the Studio Ghibli Films of Hayao Miyazaki”, which he began in 2017, has captivated huge live audiences with sold-out performances at Madison Square Garden in New York over 3 nights, La Défense Arena in Paris, Wembley Arena in London, Olympic Hall in Munich, and more. In July 2025, the tour concluded with a final performance at Tokyo Dome, drawing a total of 130,000 fans across three shows.

In recent years, Hisaishi has worked as a classical music conductor and also composed new works in a contemporary music style, including The East Land Symphony (Symphony No. 1) (2016), Asian Symphony (2017), The Border Concerto for 3 Horns and Orchestra (2020), Symphony No. 2 (2021), Metaphysica (Symphony No. 3)(2021) and Viola Saga for Orchestra (2023). His Harp Concerto, commissioned mainly by the Los Angeles Philharmonic and performed by their own harpist Emmanuel Ceysson, received its world premiere in November 2024.

Hisaishi has collaborated with a wide range of artists including Philip Glass, David Lang, Mischa Maisky, and orchestras such as the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra, among others. He made his BBC Proms debut in August 2025 with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

In 2009, Hisaishi received the Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon and The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette in 2023 from the government of Japan. Hisaishi has been the Music Director of Japan Century Symphony Orchestra since April 2025. Hisaishi was also appointed as Composer-in-Association of Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in April 2024, Composer-in-Residence of Philadelphia Orchestra in October 2025, and Composer-in-Focus of Los Angeles Philharmonic in 2026. From the 2026/27 season, he will serve as Compositeur en Résonance (Composer in Association) at the Philharmonie de Paris.

Quelle: <https://joe-hisaishi.com/biography/>