THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND THE BOSTON POPS PRESENT A FREE CONCERT IN FRANKLIN PARK, OCTOBER 1, 2017, LED BY BSO MUSIC DIRECTOR ANDRIS NELSONS, BOSTON POPS CONDUCTOR KEITH LOCKHART, AND BSO YOUTH & FAMILY CONCERTS CONDUCTOR THOMAS WILKINS

BOSTON POPS RETURNS TO FRANKLIN PARK FOR FIRST TIME IN 17 YEARS; BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMS IN THE PARK FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS 136-YEAR HISTORY

THE PERFORMANCE, PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF BOSTON, WILL BE PRECEDED BY A PRE-CONCERT FESTIVAL FEATURING MUSICAL DEMONSTRATIONS, ART EXHIBITS, CRAFTS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

On Sunday, October 1, at 3 p.m., the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops, in partnership with the City of Boston, will present a special free concert in Boston's Franklin Park. Led by BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons, Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart, and BSO Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins, the outdoor concert marks the first time the BSO and the Boston Pops have performed on the same stage in a free outdoor public venue. Though the Boston Pops have performed at Franklin Park twice before—in 2000, under the direction of Keith Lockhart, and in 1968 with Arthur Fiedler—this will be the first performance by the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Boston’s largest park, and the first time Mr. Nelsons has led the orchestra in an outdoor venue in Boston.
Details of Franklin Park BSO and Boston Pops Program

On Sunday, October 1, at 3 p.m. concert emcee and BSO Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins will open the Franklin Park concert with the National Anthem, followed by performances by the Boston Pops under the direction of Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart. The program will also include the first-ever Franklin Park appearances by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and its music director Andris Nelsons.

Following the National Anthem, Keith Lockhart will lead the Boston Pops in a selection of works from some of John Williams' most popular scores, including Raiders March from Indiana Jones; Hedwig's Theme from Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone; Dry Your Tears, Afrika, from Amistad, featuring a children’s choir; and the Main Title from Star Wars. The performances of Mr. Williams' music follow the Boston Pops's 2017 first-ever season-long tribute to the composer's film music, honoring Mr. Williams' 27-year association with the Boston Pops (Boston Pops Conductor 1980-1993; currently Boston Pops Conductor Laureate) and his incredible stature as one of the world's most beloved and prolific composers. On the second half, the Boston Symphony Orchestra takes the stage, led by BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons and Thomas Wilkins. Mr. Wilkins leads the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Shostakovich's Festive Overture, Arturo Marquez's Danzon No. 2, and "Aspiration," the fourth movement of William Grant Still's Symphony No. 1. Andris Nelsons closes the concert leading the orchestra in the fourth movement of Mahler's first symphony.

Preceding the concert, the BSO will host a pre-concert festival in Franklin Park, featuring musical demonstrations, art exhibits, crafts, and other activities for kids and families.

Quote from Mayor Martin Walsh
“It is an incredibly special and historic occasion to offer the residents of Boston the opportunity to hear the world-renowned Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Pops perform at Franklin Park. This free concert and festival will be a memorable celebration featuring the very best of our talent in Boston, and I encourage people from every corner of the City to attend this October.”

Quote from Commissioner of Parks and Recreation Christopher Cook
"To have one of the world's greatest orchestras—our own BSO—perform amid Olmsted's bucolic masterpiece, Franklin Park, is a treasure within a treasure. The Boston Pops and the Boston Symphony, so central to our cultural identity, will be right at home in this park which is, literally and figuratively, the center of our city."

Quote from Andris Nelsons, Ray and Maria Stata BSO Music Director
"Together with my wonderful colleagues, Keith Lockhart and Thomas Wilkins, we are pleased to bring the music of the Boston Symphony and Boston Pops to music lovers throughout the city in the beautiful atmosphere of one of our city's most treasured parks. Though the Pops has had the honor of performing in Franklin Park previously, I am very excited to announce that this will be the first appearance there for the BSO and for me as well.

"Our free concert in Franklin Park on October 1 is a wish I've had since my first season as music director in 2014. I am very happy for this opportunity to bring the BSO out into the greater Boston community for an open air concert sharing Mahler’s music for all our friends and neighbors to enjoy. It's also a
double pleasure to feature the Boston Pops with the brilliant Keith Lockhart leading the music of our legendary John Williams, who in addition to being one of the best-known and beloved composers of our time, has had a 37-year association with the Pops and BSO. Furthermore, I am privileged to share the BSO podium with Thomas Wilkins, who is such a wonderful communicator through both words and music to fans of every age.

"Thank you to Mayor Walsh and Governor Baker for their help in making this concert in Franklin Park a dream come true for me and all of us at the BSO Family!"

**Quote from Keith Lockhart, Julian and Eunice Cohen Boston Pops Conductor**

"There is something very special about bringing the Boston Pops to the historic neighborhood of Franklin Park to perform for a community of people who we know will appreciate the orchestra's extraordinary music-making, while enjoying a beautiful fun-filled day with friends and family. I am honored to lead the music of John Williams, whose connection to Boston and the Pops extends over a remarkable four decades. It is all the more special that we will share the stage with BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons, who always brings out the breathtaking beauty and power of Mahler's music, and BSO Youth and Family Concert Conductor Thomas Wilkins, who will lead the Boston Symphony Orchestra in a wonderful spectrum of music for the greater Franklin Park community.

"Benjamin Franklin, for whom Franklin Park is named, said, "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." We hope to immerse our friends and neighbors of Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, Dorchester, and the greater Boston area in the music of the BSO and Boston Pops, and to create a memorable experience that will inspire them for many years to come. To achieve such a goal would be a privilege and honor. I thank Mayor Walsh and Governor Baker for giving us this fantastic opportunity."

**Quote from Thomas Wilkins, Germeshausen BSO Youth and Family Concerts Conductor**

"A large part of my role as the BSO's Youth and Family Concerts Conductor is to deepen the relationship between Boston's diverse communities and the first rate musicians and incredible artistry we're able to present on the Symphony Hall stage throughout the year. One of my great passions is helping people fall in love with music and I'm so proud that we're able to share the remarkable talents of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Pops with the greater Boston community in Franklin Park this fall. This is my first opportunity to bring the entire orchestra to the public, and it's a pleasure to be able to share the stage for this performance with Andris Nelsons and Keith Lockhart."

**PRESS CONTACT**

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**FRANKLIN PARK CONCERT LISTING: BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND BOSTON POPS, WITH CONDUCTORS ANDRIS NELSONS, KEITH LOCKHART, AND THOMAS WILKINS**
Sunday, October 1, 3 p.m., Franklin Park
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Boston Pops Orchestra
Andris Nelsons, BSO Music Director
Keith Lockhart, Boston Pops Conductor
Thomas Wilkins, BSO Youth and Family Concerts Conductor and concert emcee

SMITH The Star-Spangled Banner
Thomas Wilkins, conductor

WILLIAMS Raider's March
WILLIAMS Hedwig's Theme from Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
WILLIAMS Dry Your Tears, Afrika, from Amistad
WILLIAMS Main Title from Star Wars
Keith Lockhart, conductor

SHOSTAKOVICH Festive Overture
MARQUEZ Danzon No. 2
Grant STILL Symphony No. 1, 4th movement ("Aspiration")
Thomas Wilkins, conductor

MAHLER Symphony No. 1, 4th movement
Andris Nelsons, conductor