BOSTON POPS AND KEITH LOCKHART REleased first all-live holiday album on October 22; recorded in Boston’s world famous Symphony Hall, the new recording is available in a variety of download formats and on compact disc, details at BOSTONPOPS.ORG

A BOSTON POPS CHRISTMAS - LIVE FROM SYMPHONY HALL strives to capture the live concert experience and bring one of New England’s most treasured Christmastime traditions to Boston Pops fans throughout New England and across the country.

SLEIGH RIDE, originally written for the Boston Pops by Leroy Anderson and consistently rated one of the top holiday tunes over the past sixty years, is featured on the new Pops album.

Downloadable versions of A BOSTON POPS CHRISTMAS - LIVE FROM SYMPHONY HALL are now available for review purposes by sending a request to PRESS@BSO.ORG or calling 617-638-9280.

On October 22, the Boston Pops released its first all-live Holiday CD, A Boston Pops Christmas - Live From Symphony Hall, under the direction of conductor Keith Lockhart, with the acclaimed Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and powerhouse vocalist Melinda Doolittle, an American Idol finalist. A Boston Pops Christmas - Live From Symphony Hall, was recorded live at concerts during the 2011 and 2012 Holiday Pops seasons in Boston's Symphony Hall, widely considered one of the top concert halls in the world. The new album is the orchestra’s first seasonal recording since the release of Sleigh Ride in 2004.
“As we started planning the repertoire for our holiday album, we set ourselves the goal of capturing the incredible spirit of the live concert experience of the Holiday Pops tradition that takes place every December at Symphony Hall,” said Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart.

“By recording the album live and presenting the musical selections in a way that relates to the actual concert experience, our hope is to share our tradition with music fans in Boston, throughout New England, and across the country. We’re also thrilled to have a chance to share two relatively new arrangements that have become audience favorites—the Boston Pops’s very own ‘The Twelve Days of Christmas,’ and ‘Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas,’ as well as the amazing vocals of American Idol finalist Melinda Doolittle who sings a beautiful arrangement of Christmas spirituals.”

**DETAILS ON HOW TO PURCHASE NEW BOSTON POPS HOLIDAY ALBUM**
Starting October 22, the album became available for $17.95 as a CD, $9.99 as a download in MP3 format, $10.99 in stereo hi-def, or $13.99 in 5.1 surround, by visiting www.bostonpops.org, calling 888-266-1200, or through iTunes, Amazon, and Amazon MP3. Downloadable and CD versions of a Boston Pops Christmas - Live From Symphony Hall are now available for review purposes by sending a request to press@bso.org or calling 617-638-9280.

**DETAILS ON THE MUSIC FEATURED IN “A BOSTON POPS CHRISTMAS - LIVE FROM SYMPHONY HALL”**
A Boston Pops Christmas - Live From Symphony Hall opens in typical concert style with a high-spirited selection, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” and ends with the traditional Merry Little Sing-Along (“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” – “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” – “Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!” – “Winter Wonderland” – “Jingle Bells”), which consistently leaves concertgoers leaving the concert hall filled with the holiday spirit. In between, listeners will hear the recent Boston Pops arrangement of “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” an audience favorite that cleverly mixes in beloved themes by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Handel, and Sousa, and Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody.” American Idol finalist and frequent Boston Pops collaborator Melinda Doolittle performs a medley of Christmas spirituals including “My Lord What a Morning,” “Rise Up, Shepherd,” and “Glory Hallelujah,” as well as the upbeat “Children, Go Where I Send Thee.”

The new album also showcases the orchestra’s signature Holiday Pops tune, “Sleigh Ride,” in its original arrangement composed especially for the Boston Pops by Leroy Anderson in 1948; “Sleigh Ride” in its many different arrangements over the years has consistently ranked in the top ten most popular pieces of holiday music for the past sixty years. The new album also showcases a recent Boston Pops arrangement of tunes from one of the all-time most-watched Christmas TV specials—Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas, featuring the talents of actor Will LeBow and the sonorous vocals of Reid Bruton. No Boston Pops Christmas album would be complete without the orchestra performing classic holiday hymns, such as “Carol of the Drums,” and beloved holiday standards such as “The Christmas Song” and “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” a special Boston Pops arrangement by Richard Hayman. Please see below for a complete track listing.

**THE 2013 HOLIDAY POPS SEASON, DECEMBER 4-24, WITH EIGHT SPECIAL KIDS MATINEES**
A Boston Pops Christmas - Live From Symphony Hall has been released prior to the Holiday Pops concert series at Symphony Hall in December. Continuing one of Boston’s most beloved traditions, the
Holiday Pops concert series will present 37 pre-Christmas evening and matinee concerts, including eight special kids matinee concerts, December 4-24, under Keith Lockhart’s direction, in world-famous Symphony Hall, specially decorated to evoke all the magic and charm of the holiday season. Though the program isn’t yet finalized, the 2013 Holiday Pops performances are sure to feature highlights from A Boston Pops Christmas - Live From Symphony Hall, including including the recent Boston Pops arrangement of “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” the ever-popular “Sleigh Ride,” and the traditional Merry Little Sing-Along.

A New England Christmastime tradition, the Boston Pops Holiday concerts began under Arthur Fiedler in 1973 with a three-concert series at Symphony Hall. Since then, public demand for the performances has grown, with many of the concerts continuing to sell out each year, and the orchestra tours regionally each year throughout the Northeast. Tickets for the Boston Pops Holiday series run from $30 to $97 for regularly priced concerts and $36 to $134 for premium priced concerts. Tickets can be purchased by calling 888-266-1200 or visiting www.bostonpops.org.

A BRIEF RECORDING HISTORY OF THE BOSTON POPS
Affectionately known as “America's Orchestra,” the Boston Pops is the most recorded and arguably the most beloved orchestra in the country, beginning with the establishment of the modern-era Pops by Arthur Fiedler and continuing through the innovations introduced by John Williams and the new-millennium Pops spearheaded by Keith Lockhart. Ever since the earliest Boston Pops recordings in 1935 under iconic Boston Pops conductor Arthur Fiedler, the orchestra has been laying down tracks of light classical music as well as some of the most popular tunes of each passing decade. The orchestra’s recording ventures have evolved with the technology of the times. In the ’30s and ‘40s, Fiedler and the Pops concentrated on short orchestral works of about eight minutes’ duration, such as overtures by Weber, Dvořák, Berlioz, Wagner, waltzes by Strauss, and The Sorcerer’s Apprentice by Dukas. These pieces fit very conveniently on a twelve-inch 78-RPM record, with four minutes on each side. In the early 1950s, with the advent of the long-playing record, Fiedler and the Boston Pops quickly expanded the repertoire to take advantage of the new format. The LP’s playing time of about forty-five minutes allowed for an adventurous and varied slate of selections. The 1953 release Classical Music for People Who Hate Classical Music was probably one of the first examples of what is now called the “concept album.” Under the leadership of John Williams, the Boston Pops Orchestra began recording with Philips, which made the ensemble part of the album title: Pops in Love; Pops in Space; Pops on Stage; Pops on the March. Then, when one was expecting Pops at the Movies, Philips threw a curve and called it Aisle Seat! In recent years Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart has shifted album production in-house, with recording sessions taking place at the orchestra’s acoustically celebrated Symphony Hall in Boston. Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops have released four self-produced recordings – Sleigh Ride, America, Oscar & Tony, and, most recently, The Red Sox Album. In September 2009, the Boston Pops released its first digital-download only recording of its wildly popular arrangement of “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” That same year, Keith Lockhart also led the Pops for Chris Botti’s In Boston CD and DVD, which received multiple Grammy nominations in 2009. In July 2010, the Pops released the live recording of the world premiere performances of The Dream Lives On: A Portrait of the Kennedy Brothers, featuring narrators Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman, Ed Harris, and Cherry Jones. Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Orchestra have also recorded eight albums with RCA Victor—Runnin' Wild: The Boston Pops Play Glenn Miller, American Visions, the Grammy-nominated The Celtic Album, Holiday Pops, A Splash of Pops, Encore!, the Latin Grammy-nominated The Latin Album, and My Favorite Things: A Richard Rodgers Celebration. For a brief history of the Boston Pops please click here.

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A BOSTON POPS CHRISTMAS - LIVE FROM SYMPHONY HALL – TRACK LISTING

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
The Twelve Days of Christmas
The Christmas Song
Prologue from Hodie (This Day)
Carol of the Drum
Three Christmas Spirituals (My Lord, What a Morning – Rise Up, Shepherd – Glory Hallelujah )
Melinda Doolittle, vocalist
Children Go Where I Send Thee
Melinda Doolittle, vocalist
How the Grinch Stole Christmas
Will LeBow, narrator
Reid Bruton, vocalist (You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch)
Holly Jolly Jingle
A Christmas Scherzo
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Sleigh Ride
Zat You, Santa Claus?

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