FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DATE: April 10, 2014

BOSTON POPS AND CONDUCTOR KEITH LOCKHART
OPEN THE ORCHESTRA’S 129TH SEASON WITH
TELEVISION, FILM, AND STAGE STAR JASON ALEXANDER
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, AT SYMPHONY HALL

BOSTON POPS CONCERTS ON MAY 8 AND 9 INAUGURATE SEASON THEME,
“THE VERY BEST OF THE BOSTON POPS,” FOCUSING ON THE BEST ARRANGEMENTS FROM THE
ORCHESTRA’S EXCLUSIVE LIBRARY OF 3,400 WORKS, ALONG WITH FIRST-EVER SYMPHONY HALL
APPEARANCES BY ARTISTS AS DIVERSE AS WARREN HAYNES, LEONARD NIMOY, BILLY PORTER, MELISSA
ETHERIDGE, THE HOT SARDINES AND CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE, AS WELL AS A FIRST-TIME FILM
SCREENING OF THE WIZARD OF OZ WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA ACCOMPANIMENT

FOR DOWNLOADABLE PHOTOS AND BIOS OF SEASON GUEST ARTISTS AND THE BOSTON POPS
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PRESS TICKETS FOR OPENING NIGHT AND OTHER SEASON CONCERTS ARE AVAILABLE BY
EMAILING DMCCADDEN@BSO.ORG OR CALLING 617-638-9286

BOSTON POPS’ 2014 SEASON AND OPENING NIGHT SPONSORED BY FIDELITY INVESTMENTS®

A sure sign that spring has finally arrived in Boston, the Boston Pops, led by conductor
Keith Lockhart, will kick off “The Very Best of the Boston Pops” Season with the help of
television, film, and stage star Jason Alexander, in a festively decorated Symphony Hall,
Wednesday, May 7, at 8 p.m. Mr. Alexander’s unique brand of humor and Broadway
showmanship will lend a jovial atmosphere to the spring Pops season, one of Boston’s long-
embraced traditions. During the season opener, the sweeping range of music and the style of
entertainment made famous by “America’s Orchestra” will be showcased in renditions of tunes
by Boston Pops Conductor Laureate John Williams, famed American composers Aaron
Copland, Duke Ellington, and George Gershwin, and a performance of ABBA’s modern classic,
“Dancing Queen.” The doors open at 7 p.m. for a complimentary pre-concert reception for all ticket holders.

Tickets for the May 7 Boston Pops opener, priced $41 - $128, and other season concerts $22-$124, may be purchased by visiting www.bostonpops.org, calling 888-266-1200, or visiting the Symphony Hall box office at 301 Massachusetts Avenue.

PROGRAM DETAILS FOR OPENING NIGHT AT POPS (MAY 7)
The Boston Pops 2014 season kicks-off on Wednesday, May 7, with the help of multi-talented entertainer Jason Alexander. Mr. Alexander will join Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops to perform beloved hits from Pippin (the musical that first sparked Alexander’s interest in Broadway), The Music Man, and Merrily We Roll Along. Although best known for his role as George Costanza on Seinfeld, Mr. Alexander, who debuted with the Pops in 1996, has proven to be a powerful force on the Great White Way, having made his Broadway debut in Stephen Sondheim’s Merrily We Roll Along. He has since starred on Broadway five times, including his Tony award-winning appearance in Jerome Robbins’ Broadway, for which he also wrote the libretto. Jason Alexander’s set will be preceded by Boston Pops renditions of readily accessible classics such as Buckaroo Holiday from Aaron Copland’s cowboy ballet Rodeo and the Largo from Antonin Dvořák’s New World Symphony. The evening will also feature music from the film scores of Harry Potter and E. T. The Extra-Terrestrial, written by Boston Pops Laureate Conductor John Williams, and conclude with a cinematic sing-along for the full audience.

“THE VERY BEST OF THE BOSTON POPS” CONCERTS (MAY 8, 9)
After Opening Night, the Boston Pops and Keith Lockhart will delve into the storied Boston Pops library for two concerts which set the stage for “The Very Best of the Boston Pops” season theme. Concerts on May 8 and 9 will spotlight works by such American masters as Aaron Copland, Duke Ellington, and George Gershwin, as well as famed arranger and composer Leroy Anderson’s Piano Concerto with frequent Pops guest Michael Chertock as soloist. Keith and the Pops will also perform Chris Walden’s orchestrations of two modern-day classics—Queen’s Bohemian Rhapsody and ABBA’s Dancing Queen. Rounding out the program are familiar movie themes by Boston Pops Laureate Conductor John Williams.

“THE VERY BEST OF THE BOSTON POPS” SEASON OVERVIEW
“The Very Best of the Boston Pops” 2014 Boston Pops season, May 7-June 14, will showcase the amazing range of music and entertainment that audiences have come to expect from “America’s Orchestra,” under the direction of Keith Lockhart, at Symphony Hall in Boston, MA. Along with the orchestra’s beloved tradition of presenting classic hits from Broadway, film, and the Great American Songbook—all chosen from its exclusive library of extraordinary music—the 2014 Boston Pops spring season will also introduce its audiences to debut appearances by Warren Haynes (5/13 & 14), Tony award-winning Billy Porter (5/20 &21), Grammy- and Oscar-winning Melissa Etheridge (6/12 & 13), as well as first-time collaborations with the New York-based jazz band sensation The Hot Sardines (5/28-30) and Cirque de la Symphonie (5/16 & 17),
the wildly unique circus act that brings its aerial flyers, acrobats, dancers, and jugglers to orchestral stages throughout the country. Additional season highlights include a screening of the complete *Wizard of Oz* with live orchestra accompaniment (5/10 & 11), the annual *Film Night* series with Boston Pops Laureate Conductor John Williams (6/6, 7, 10, 11), *Out of This World* space-themed concerts with Leonard Nimoy; Gospel Night with Grammy-award winning *a cappella* group Take Six and the world premiere of a new work, “The Song of Solomon” by conductor Charles Floyd (6/14), as well as performances by the winners of the *2014 Fidelity Investments Young Artists Competition* at the Boston Pops and original *Dreamgirls* star Jennifer Holliday (6/3). Ms. Holliday will make a special appearance during the annual Gala fundraising event, *Presidents at Pops* (6/4). The orchestra will also celebrate the 200th anniversary of “The Star-Spangled Banner” with a newly commissioned multi-media work featuring a spoken word text, a kaleidoscope of images, and a new arrangement of the national anthem specifically composed to accommodate a variety of performance options, including solo voice and adult and children choruses, as well as audience participation (6/4).

**TICKET AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION**

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Tickets for the 2014 Boston Pops season at Symphony Hall, priced from $22-124, are on sale at [www.bostonpops.org](http://www.bostonpops.org) or 617-266-1200. All performances start at 8 PM, except for the *Oz with Orchestra* performances on May 10 and 11 and the *Cirque de la Symphonie* performance on May 17. These three Kids Matinee concerts start at 3 p.m. and tickets for children ages 12 and younger are 50% off.

Tickets may be purchased online at [www.bostonpops.org](http://www.bostonpops.org) or by phone through SymphonyCharge at 617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200, Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM and on Saturday from 12 noon to 6 PM (with a $6.25 handling fee for each ticket ordered online or by phone). Tickets may also be purchased in person at the Symphony Hall box office, open 10 AM to 6 PM, Monday through Friday, and noon to 6 PM on Saturday. On concert days during the Pops Season, the box office remains open until 8:30 PM. Most major credit cards and cash are accepted at the box office. For group sales of 25 or more, please call 617-638-9345 or 800-933-4255.

The Boston Symphony has a dedicated line for disabled patrons who would like to purchase tickets to BSO, Boston Pops, or Tanglewood concerts, or who need information about disability services at Symphony Hall or Tanglewood. This line can be reached by dialing 617-638-9431. For access via TDD/TTY, please call 617-638-9289. Patrons with disabilities can access Symphony Hall through the Cohen Wing on Huntington Avenue or through the Massachusetts Avenue entrance.

Ticket packages to *Presidents at Pops*, the BSO’s exclusive spring corporate gala, start at $5,500 and include floor and balcony tickets with a sponsor page in the evening’s commemorative program book. Lead Sponsorships are available from $25,000 to $75,000, and include premium
seating, full-color sponsor pages, sponsorship of children at DARTS (Days in the Arts at Tanglewood), the BSO’s summer arts immersion camp in the Berkshires, membership in the BSO Business Partners, as well as recognition at the event and throughout the Pops season.

**SPONSORSHIP**
Opening Night at Pops and the entire 2014 Boston Pops season are sponsored by Fidelity Investments. John Williams' Film Night Series (June 6, 7, 10, 11) is sponsored by Arbella Insurance Foundation. The Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel is the Official Hotel of the Boston Pops. Commonwealth Worldwide is the Official Chauffeured Transportation Provider of the Boston Pops. American Airlines is the Official Airline of the Boston Pops.

**Boston Pops 2014 Season Listing**
**Wednesday, May 7, 8 p.m.**
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Jason Alexander, guest artist

**Thursday, May 8, 8 p.m.**
**Friday, May 9, 8 p.m.**
The Very Best of the Boston Pops
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Michael Chertock, pianist