PRESS CONTACT:
Bernadette Horgan, bhorgan@bso.org
617-638-9280

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DATE: May 19, 2014

GRAMMY- AND OSCAR-WINNING MELISSA ETHERIDGE
JOINS KEITH LOCKHART AND THE BOSTON POPS
TO MAKE HER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA DEBUT
(JUNE 12 AND 13)

BERKLEE NIGHT AT THE BOSTON POPS WITH
MELISSA ETHERIDGE, A BERKLEE ALUM,
FEATURES FOUR WINNERS OF
BERKLEE SINGER/SONGWRITER COMPETITION IN
PERFORMANCE WITH KEITH LOCKHART AND THE POPS

BERKLEE NIGHT CONCERT ALSO FEATURES SARAH WALK,
RECENTLY FEATURED ON THE LOFT SESSIONS VIDEO COLLABORATION
WITH KEITH LOCKHART AND BOSTON POPS MUSICIANS GUS SEBRING AND OWEN YOUNG

MELISSA ETHERIDGE RETURNS TO SYMPHONY HALL STAGE FOR
ARMENIAN NIGHT FEATURING SAXOPHONIST HAYRAPET ARAKELYAN

FOR DOWNLOADABLE PHOTOS AND BIOS OF SEASON GUEST ARTISTS AND
THE BOSTON POPS PLEASE CLICK HERE

PRESS TICKETS FOR SEASON CONCERTS ARE AVAILABLE BY
EMAILING DMCCADDEN@BSO.ORG OR CALLING 617-638-9286

BOSTON POPS’ 2014 SEASON SPONSORED BY FIDELITY INVESTMENTS®
Grammy- and Oscar-award winning singer/songwriter Melissa Etheridge will perform two concerts with the Boston Pops under conductor Keith Lockhart at Symphony Hall on June 12 and 13. Etheridge, a Berklee alum, will be the featured guest on Berklee Night at the Boston Pops on June 12, a program highlighted by new collaborations between the college and the orchestra. This program will feature Berklee students Sarah McKenzie, Deni Hlavinka, Ahmad A. El Haggar, and recent graduate Sarah Walk, who were selected by Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart as winners of a singer/songwriter competition to perform with the Pops at the event. For a Loft Sessions video preview of this concert featuring Berklee artist Sarah Walk, Berklee students, and Boston Pops musicians Gus Sebring and Owen Young, click here. Melissa Etheridge will also perform with the Boston Pops during the annual Armenian Night concert the following evening, June 13.

Tickets for Berklee Night at the Boston Pops with Melissa Etheridge (June 12) and Armenian Night with Melissa Etheridge (June 13) run from $24 to $94. These can be purchased by calling 888-266-1200, by visiting www.bostonpops.org, or at the Symphony Hall Box Office.

BERKLEE NIGHT AT THE BOSTON POPS WITH MELISSA ETHERIDGE (JUNE 12)
Berklee Night at the Boston Pops celebrates the Berklee College of Music. The event is open to the public and kicks off with a Pops rendition of Dvořák’s Carnival Overture and a new arrangement of Dave Brubeck's Blue Rondo à la Turk, by Chris Brubeck, the late composer’s son. The program will also feature The Boston Pops Horn Quartet, four French horn players who also perform in the Boston Symphony Orchestra, in a new arrangement of “Over the Rainbow,” from The Wizard of Oz.

The second set will feature the winners of the Berklee singer/songwriter competition at the Boston Pops. The winners collaborated with student orchestrators under the guidance of Berklee faculty and frequent Boston Pops arranger Bill Elliott to create orchestrations of their compositions. Each of the students and orchestrators mentioned below are also Berklee students.

Deni Hlavinka’s new piece “Carter Hall” comes first in the program. The tune will be performed by her band The Western Den (Deni Hlavinka, vocals; Chris West, guitar and vocals; Ro Rowan, cello; and Tim Reynolds, violin) and was orchestrated by Joel Sim. Competition winner Sarah McKenzie will perform a new work orchestrated by Dante St. James. Vocalist and oud performer Ahmed El Haggar will perform his composition “Mawal El Kurum” (The Grapvine Hymn). Lyrics for the piece were written by Husam Haddad and it was orchestrated by Žiga Pirnat. Ali Amr will perform qanun and Moez Dawad will play percussion on the work. Recent Berklee graduate Sarah Walk will perform her first Loft Sessions hit, “Still Frames.” She wrote the work with Ethan Thompson and Tim de Graauw, and it was arranged by Evan Chapman, the producer of The Loft Sessions. Sarah Walk will perform vocals and piano and Tracy Robertson will beatbox.
After intermission, famed singer/songwriter Melissa Etheridge, a Berklee College of Music graduate, will make her orchestral debut with the Boston Pops to perform some of her best known songs including “Come to My Window,” and “The Weakness in Me.”

ARMENIAN NIGHT WITH MELISSA ETHERIDGE (JUNE 13)
The first half of the annual Armenian Night at the Boston Pops will also feature Dvořák’s Carnival Overture and Dave Brubeck’s Blue Rondo à la Turk, as well as a Boston Pops rendition of Led Zeppelin’s iconic “Stairway to Heaven.” The performance will also feature Armenian saxophonist Hayrapet Arakelyan in a Tango Suite for Saxophone and Orchestra. The orchestra will also perform the Lullaby from the Ballet Gayane by Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian. After intermission famed singer/songwriter Melissa Etheridge debuts with the Pops to perform some of her best-known tunes including “Come to My Window” and “The Weakness in Me.”

MORE ON THE ARTISTS FEATURED DURING BERKLEE NIGHT AT THE POPS JUNE 12
Sarah Walk is a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota and a Berklee College of Music alumna. A singer, pianist, and songwriter, she is currently writing and recording new music in Los Angeles and London. She has a distinct voice and rhythmic playing style, and her music has been described as "cynically optimistic and in-your-face, every bit as raw and passionate as one could hope" (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Watch: Sarah Walk, "Still Frames"

Sarah McKenzie is a pianist, vocalist, and composer from Melbourne, Australia. She was a backup vocalist for Michael Bublé on his “Call Me Irresponsible” tour, and was the opening act for Grammy-winning trumpeter Chris Botti in 2011. Her second album, Close Your Eyes, won the 2012 ARIA award for Best Jazz Album. Prior to enrolling at Berklee, she studied composition with Johnny Mandel ("The Shadow of Your Smile," theme from M*A*S*H) as well as with Berklee voice professor Donna McElroy at the Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy. Watch Sarah McKenzie, "That’s It, I Quit!"

Deni Hlavinka is a singer, pianist, and songwriter from Stephens City, Virginia. She is currently studying professional music at Berklee with Grammy-winning artist Paula Cole. In 2013, her band, The Western Den, released their debut EP and toured as the opening act for Melissa Ferrick. Later that year, they released a self-produced Christmas EP to raise funds for victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. Watch The Western Den, "Carter Hall"

Ahmad El Haggar is a vocalist and oud player from Cairo, Egypt. He recently joined music legend Carole King on stage at the MusiCares Person of the Year ceremony to perform a Middle Eastern-style version of her song, "Home Again," that he arranged specifically for the event. It wasn't the first time El Haggar put his stamp on a pop favorite. His Egyptian rendition of Gnarls Barkley's "Crazy" has almost 120,000 views on YouTube. Before coming to Berklee, he attended the Higher Institute of Arabic Music. Watch Ahmad El Haggar, "Fi Kol Fengan Ahwa"
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 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 has already welcomed debuts by Warren Haynes (5/13 & 14) 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.

The Boston Pops Opening night concert on May 7 featured Jason Alexander—actor, director, producer, writer, singer, and comedian, best-known for his role as George Costanza of Seinfeld fame—who joined Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Orchestra for an evening of comedy, song, and dance. The Boston Pops also presented a screening of the complete Wizard of Oz with live orchestra accompaniment (5/10 & 11). Additional season highlights include 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 arrangement of the national anthem with a celebrity guest narrator.

MORE ON “THE VERY BEST OF THE BOSTON POPS” SEASON

Since establishing the Pops genre in 1885, the year of the orchestra’s founding, the Boston Pops has cultivated an impressive library of music reflecting over a century of America’s wide-ranging musical tastes. “The Very Best of the Boston Pops” draws from the 3,400 titles in the orchestra’s library—music prepared by some of the best arrangers and composers from every generation since the orchestra’s founding 128 years ago. This vast collection—virtually all of which is the exclusive domain of the Boston Pops—includes everything from Beatles medleys, college fight songs, American songbook classics, film music, and Broadway scores for full orchestra, to jazz standards, full-length symphonies, sing-alongs for every occasion, and contemporary pop hits, as well as original works commissioned especially for the one and only Boston Pops Orchestra.

TICKET AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION
TICKET INFORMATION
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 p.m., 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 Listing**

**Thursday, June 12, 8 p.m.**

Berklee Night at the Pops with Melissa Etheridge  
Keith Lockhart, conductor  
Melissa Etheridge, guest artist
Friday, June 13, 8 p.m.
Very Best of the Boston Pops with Melissa Etheridge
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Melissa Etheridge, guest artist
Hayrapet Arakelyan, special guest