2015 BOSTON POPS SEASON, MAY 6-JUNE 13, CELEBRATES KEITH LOCKHART’S 20TH ANNIVERSARY AS BOSTON POPS CONDUCTOR; TICKETS, PRICED $24-125, GO ON SALE MARCH 23, AT 888-266-1200 AND WWW.BOSTONPOPS.ORG

2015 BOSTON POPS SEASON REFLECTS KEITH LOCKHART’S CAREER-LONG DEDICATION TO SPOTLIGHTING THE WIDEST ARRAY OF MUSICAL GENRES AND INTRODUCING NEW ARTISTS AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING INSPIRED BY POPULAR TRENDS OF OUR TIME

2015 BOSTON POPS SEASON INTRODUCES FIRST-EVER “BY POPULAR DEMAND” PROGRAMS: AUDIENCE LIVE-VOTES DURING CONCERTS FOR THEIR FAVORITE SONG SELECTIONS FROM THEIR MOBILE DEVICES AND HELP PROGRAM ENTIRE SECOND HALF OF CONCERT THEY ARE ATTENDING (MAY 7, 16, 26, 29 & JUNE 5)

SEASON TO FEATURE SOME OF THE MOST PROMINENT PERSONALITIES ON BROADWAY INCLUDING THE SENSATIONAL VOCALIST AND ACTRESS BERNADETTE PETERS AS OPENING NIGHT GUEST ARTIST (MAY 6) AND TWO-TIME TONY-WINNER SUTTON FOSTER IN TWO PERFORMANCES (JUNE 2 & 3); BOSTON POPS TO PRESENT SIMPLY SONDHEIM—EXPLORING THE WORKS OF MUSICAL MASTERMIND STEPHEN SONDHEIM THROUGH FULL ORCHESTRA
ARRANGEMENTS OF HIS MUSIC FEATURING BROADWAY STARS MARIN MAZZIE AND JASON DANIELEY (JUNE 10 & 11)

KEITH LOCKHART AND BOSTON POPS TO TRANSPORT AUDIENCES BACK TO THE 1950S AND ’60S WITH PROGRAMS FEATURING MUSIC FROM THE MAD MEN ERA WITH THE MIDTOWN MEN, FOUR STARS FROM THE ORIGINAL CAST OF JERSEY BOYS (MAY 19, 20 & 21); A SCREENING OF SINGIN’ IN THE RAIN, WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA ACCOMPANIMENT (MAY 8 & 9); AND THE POPS PLAYS THE BEATLES (MAY 13 & 14)

A CELTIC SOJOURN AT POPS, HOSTED AND CURATED BY BRIAN O’DONOVAN, EXPLORES CELTIC MUSIC’S CONTINUING POPULARITY IN OUR MUSICAL LANDSCAPE (MAY 27 & 28)

BOSTON POPS FAVORITES RETURN TO SYMPHONY HALL: FILM NIGHT SERIES FEATURING MUSIC OF COMPOSER JOHN WILLIAMS LED BY GUEST CONDUCTOR RICHARD KAUFMAN (MAY 22 & 23); THE HIGH-FLYING ACROBATS OF CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE (JUNE 12 & 13); AND THE ANNUAL GOSPEL NIGHT WITH A DEBUT PERFORMANCE BY THE BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA (JUNE 6)

COMEDIAN AND BROOKLINE NATIVE JOHN HODGMAN OF “DAILY SHOW” FAME TO PEN AND NARRATE A HUMOROUS NEW SCRIPT TO BENJAMIN BRITTEN’S THE YOUNG PERSON’S GUIDE TO THE ORCHESTRA (MAY 13, 14, & 16)

BOSTON POPS HASHTAG CONTEST ENCOURAGES FANS TO SHARE THEIR POPS MEMORIES AND PHOTOS FROM THE LAST 20 YEARS BY TWEETING @THEBOSTONPOPS AND USING #HAPPY20THKEITH; PARTICIPANTS WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE ENTERED TO WIN ONE OF THREE CHANCES TO ATTEND A POPS PERFORMANCE

KEITH LOCKHART AND BOSTON POPS ORCHESTRA TO BE FEATURED IN “THE BEST OF THE BOSTON POPS,” A PBS SPECIAL TO BE TELECAST NATIONALLY THIS SPRING, AND A FREE MUSIC LOOP FEATURING 20 OF MR. LOCKHART’S FAVORITE WORKS AT WWW.BOSTONPOPS.ORG

BOSTON POPS AND KEITH LOCKHART TO MAKE FIVE APPEARANCES TOGETHER AT TANGLEWOOD, WITH CONCERTS FEATURING SHERYL CROW (JUNE 19); SIMPLY SONDHEIM (JUNE 20); BERNADETTE PETERS (JULY 5); TANGLEWOOD ON PARADE (AUGUST 4); AND CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE (AUGUST 21); JOHN WILLIAMS AND DAVID NEWMAN TO LEAD FILM NIGHT CONCERT (AUGUST 22)

KEITH LOCKHART TO LEAD 42ND BOSTON POPS FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR ON JULY 4; CONCERT TO BE AVAILABLE TO WORLDWIDE AUDIENCE AS A LIVE WEBCAST AT WWW.BOSTONPOPSJULY4TH.ORG

BOSTON POPS 2015 SEASON AND OPENING NIGHT SPONSORED BY FIDELITY INVESTMENTS®
Celebrating Keith Lockhart’s 20th anniversary as Boston Pops Conductor, the **Boston Pops** 2015 season, May 6-June 13 at Symphony Hall, will showcase a remarkable range of music genres, while introducing new artists, world premieres, and innovative programming, and bringing the best of the Boston Pops library to the orchestra’s loyal audiences in greater Boston, the New England region, and beyond. Founded in 1885, the Boston Pops performs at world-famous Symphony Hall, where Pops patrons sit at cabaret-style tables and order food and drink with family and friends, all while taking in the fun-filled atmosphere of music and entertainment presented by the one and only Boston Pops. Tickets to the 2015 Boston Pops season, priced from $24-125, are available in person at the Symphony Hall box office, by calling 888-266-1200, or online at [www.bostonpops.org](http://www.bostonpops.org).

**BROADWAY AT POPS: BERNADETTE PETERS, AUDRA MCDONALD, A SONDHEIM TRIBUTE**
The Boston Pops Opening Night concert on May 6 features Tony Award-winning actress **Bernadette Peters**, who will perform some of her most beloved hits and set the stage for a season featuring some of the biggest names on Broadway. **Sutton Foster**, the two-time Tony Award winning Broadway and television sensation, will perform modern and classic hits from the Great White Way at Symphony Hall on June 2 and again for the 34th annual “Presidents at Pops” on June 3. Also sure to be a highlight of the Boston Pops 2015 season are performances of **Simply Sondheim**—a night devoted to the legendary musical theater genius **Stephen Sondheim** highlighted by full orchestra arrangements of his music featuring the return to the Pops stage of Broadway stars** Marin Mazzie and Jason Danieley**. (6/10 & 6/11).

**FIRST-EVER: AUDIENCE GETS TO VOTE FOR THEIR FAVORITE PIECES OF MUSIC**
In an effort to bring audiences directly into the concert experience like never before, Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops will present “By Popular Demand,” five concerts (5/7, 16, 26, 29 & 6/5) that offer concertgoers a chance to vote, live during the concert, for their favorite piece of music through their web-enabled devices, giving Pops audiences an opportunity to help program the entire second half of the concert they are attending. Votes will be tabulated within seconds after the voting procedure and the musical selection with the most votes will be performed that same evening. Audiences will vote for tunes in categories such as “Favorite John Williams Movie Theme” and “Favorite Iconic Rock Ballad” and even “Favorite Bugs Bunny Moment,” showcasing the great musical variety found in the Boston Pops library of 3,500 exclusive charts. A “Kids Choice” Family Concert on May 16 puts the programming power in the hands of the next generation.

**DEBUT ARTISTS WITH THE BOSTON POPS**
The 2015 Boston Pops season will bring the debuts of **The Midtown Men**—four stars from the original cast of the Broadway hit *Jersey Boys*—for music of the 1960s (5/19, 20, & 21) and living legends of gospel, **The Blind Boys of Alabama**, on Gospel Night (6/6). Two additional debut performances will feature Irish singer **Karan Casey** and Galician multi-instrumentalist **Carlos Núñez** in *A Celtic Sojourn at Pops* hosted and curated by WGBH’s **Brian O’Donovan** and planned for broadcast on his immensely popular radio program “A Celtic Sojourn,” which airs locally on Saturdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
FILM NIGHT AND OTHER BOSTON POPS FAVORITES
The season will also shine a special spotlight on some of the most popular concert themes of recent years, including a great Pops tradition—the annual Film Night series featuring music from the silver screen, including favorites from conductor John Williams, led by guest conductor Richard Kaufman (5/22 & 23). Returning to the Symphony Hall stage after an acclaimed debut last season, Cirque de la Symphonie will no doubt once again entertain crowds with their daring aerial flyers, acrobats, dancers, and jugglers (6/12 & 13). Building on the success of the recent Wizard of Oz and West Side Story film score screenings/performances at Symphony Hall, classic movie fans will be treated to a screening of the complete 1952 musical Singin’ in the Rain—number 1 on the American Film Institute’s list of the Greatest Movie Musicals of all time—with live orchestra accompaniment (5/8 & 5/9).

BOSTON POPS #Happy20thKeith CONTEST
The Boston Pops will run a hashtag contest inviting the Pops community to use #Happy20thKeith to help us celebrate Keith Lockhart’s 20th anniversary season. Throughout the spring season, May 6-June 13, fans will be asked to share their Boston Pops memories and photos from the last 20 years by using #Happy20thKeith on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram; participants in the contest will automatically be entered to win one of three chances to attend a Pops performance. Prizes include 20 tickets to attend the June 13th, Cirque de la Symphonie concert, complete with complimentary food and beverages (winner selected Friday May 29, 2015); two VIP tickets to the July 4 Boston Pops Concert on the Charles River Esplanade (winner selected June 13, 2015); and a weekend getaway for two to Tanglewood to attend the Cirque de la Symphonie Pops concert on August 21, with transportation and hotel provided (winner selected June 13, 2015). Contest participants must be 18 or older. The Boston Pops is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thebostonpops and can be found on Twitter and Instagram @thebostonpops.

BOSTON POPS FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR
The Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular—one of the nation’s proudest holiday traditions, which draws approximately 500,000 people annually to the Hatch Shell on Boston’s Charles River Esplanade, will take place on Saturday, July 4, 8 p.m., celebrating its 42nd year. Following the success of last year’s first-ever live webcast of the event, which garnered 1.3 million viewers, this year’s concert will once again be available for view at www.BostonPopsJuly4th.org; further program and broadcast details will be announced at a later date.

BOSTON POPS AT TANGLEWOOD AND ON THE CAPE
Keith Lockhart will lead five of six Boston Pops concerts at Tanglewood beginning with the season-opener featuring singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow (6/19); followed by a performance of Simply Sondheim featuring Broadway stars Marin Mazzie, Jason Danieley, and Tanglewood Music Center Fellows (6/20); and a concert with Broadway powerhouse Bernadette Peters (7/5). The Boston Pops will also be featured as part of the annual Tanglewood on Parade concert (8/4); perform again with Cirque de la Symphonie (8/21); and present the annual Film Night concert led by Boston Pops Laureate Conductor John Williams and film composer and
David Newman (8/22). Keith Lockhart and the orchestra will also be featured in annual appearances in Hyannis (8/8) and Nantucket (8/9).

BOSTON POPS TELEVISION BROADCAST AND FREE MUSIC LOOP A WWW.BOSTONPOPS.ORG

For Boston Pops fans who can’t make it to Symphony Hall for a concert, Keith Lockhart’s 20th anniversary as Boston Pops Conductor will also be celebrated through national broadcasts of a new show “The Best of the Boston Pops,” narrated by Keith Lockhart, who talks about highlights from his 20-year career with the Pops and the orchestra’s legendary history under the direction of John Williams and Arthur Fiedler. Distributed through American Public Television, details of the national broadcast schedule will be announced at a later date.

Mr. Lockhart will also program a free music loop of his top 20 favorite works from his tenure as Pops Conductor, available during the Pops season at www.bostonpops.org. In addition select Boston Pops programs are slated for broadcast on 99.5 WCRB-FM, with additional details to be announced at a later date.

KEITH LOCKHART QUOTE ON HIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE BOSTON POPS

“The world has changed dramatically since I was first invited to lead the remarkable musicians of the Boston Pops in 1995,” said Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart. “At that time there were no cell phones, email, or MP3 files, and the orchestra had just started to explore the idea of putting a website online. Twenty years later, I continue to be reminded that no matter how far we might advance technologically—and I’m among the first in line to appreciate the next new audio gadget—there’s absolutely nothing like the live concert experience and the joy and wonderment it inspires in Boston Pops fans far and wide. So whether your iTunes is packed with Broadway ballads, the music of the Beatles, Celtic folk tunes, film soundtracks, full-length symphonies, American songbook classics, Sousa marches, or contemporary pop, I hope music lovers in Boston and beyond will come hear the one and only Boston Pops perform their favorite music in world-famous Symphony Hall.”

TICKET AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

Tickets for the 2015 Boston Pops season at Symphony Hall, priced from $24-125, go on sale at 10 a.m. on March 23 at www.bostonpops.org or 617-266-1200. All performances start at 8 p.m., except for the By Popular Demand “Kids Choice” concert on May 16, “Singin’ In the Rain” concert on May 9, and Cirque de la Symphonie performance on June 13; these three Matinee Family Concerts start at 3 p.m. and tickets for children ages 12 and younger are 50% off. For the first time in many years, subscriptions will be available for the 2015 Boston Pops season—including packages for family and kids concerts.

In general, tickets may be purchased online at www.bostonpops.org or by phone through SymphonyCharge at 617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200. Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 12 noon to 6 p.m. (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 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday. On concert days during the Pops Season, the box office remains open until 8:30 p.m. 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 2015 Boston Pops season are sponsored by Fidelity Investments®. The Pops Plays The Beatles series (May 13, 14) is sponsored by Arbella Insurance Foundation. The May 20 concert is sponsored by The Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, 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 2015 Season Detailed Program Descriptions, May 6 - June 20
OPENING NIGHT AT POPPS WITH BERNADETTE PETERS (MAY 6)
The Boston Pops 2015 season kicks off with a guest appearance by Tony Award-winning actress Bernadette Peters and a celebration of Keith Lockhart’s 20th anniversary as conductor of the Boston Pops. The concert begins with Boston Pops Laureate Conductor John Williams’ energizing “Sound the Bells!” The first half of the concert will also feature several tunes made famous by Frank Sinatra, as a tribute to the 100th anniversary of Ol’ Blue Eyes’ birth. Since 1885, the Boston Pops Orchestra has performed the best music of each generation, and 2015 is no different. Audience members can expect to hear a special, symphony-style arrangement of Meghan Trainor’s “All About That Bass” during the Opening Night set. After intermission patrons will be treated to a rendition of the Broadway showstopper “Everything’s Coming Up Roses,” the very first piece Keith Lockhart led with the Pops after being appointed as the orchestra’s conductor. A brief video of this historic moment will set the scene. After intermission, Broadway songstress Bernadette Peters will take the stage to perform some of her best-known tunes.

BY POPULAR DEMAND (MAY 7, 16, 26, 29 & JUNE 5)
The Boston Pops audience will pick the music to be performed in these five interactive “By Popular Demand” concerts. Drawing from a selection of the orchestra’s unmatched library of 3,500 exclusive orchestral arrangements, audience members will vote for songs from mobile devices live at the concert. Choices will encompass some of the best music from classical, film, Broadway, and rock—the great breadth of music the orchestra has played during 20 years with Keith Lockhart at the helm. Selections will be grouped into categories such as “Favorite Bugs Bunny Moment,” “Favorite John Williams Movie Theme,” and “Favorite Rock Ballad.” The first half of these concerts will feature some of the great programming introduced on Opening Night including a tribute to Ol’ Blue Eyes on the 100th anniversary of Frank Sinatra’s birth with such tunes as “You Make Me Feel So Young,” “In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning,” and “Chicago.” The set will also feature the new arrangement of “All About That Bass.”
The Family Matinee concert on May 16 will be “Kids Choice,” opening up the voting process to children in the crowd.

**SINGIN’ IN THE RAIN: FILM WITH ORCHESTRA (MAY 8 & 9)**

Topping the American Film Institute’s list of the 25 Greatest Movie Musicals of All Time, this film masterpiece comes to life with live orchestral accompaniment and award-winning on-screen performances by Gene Kelly, Donald O’Connor, and Debbie Reynolds. Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops will bring this classic musical to the stage of Symphony Hall Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9. A Family Matinee concert on Saturday includes a 50 percent-off ticket deal for children 12 and under.

**THE POPS PLAYS THE BEATLES (MAY 13 & 14)**

On May 13 and 14, the Boston Pops will perform the music of the Beatles, in breathtaking symphonic treatments, performed by “America’s Orchestra.” Audiences should expect some of their favorite Beatles tunes including “Yesterday,” “Eleanor Rigby,” “Here Comes the Sun,” and “All You Need Is Love,” with insightful introductions from a Boston radio rock personality who will join the Boston Pops as a narrator for this program. These concerts kick off with two of the greatest British classical works in the repertoire—Elgar’s *Pomp and Circumstance* and a suite from Handel’s *Water Music*—to set the stage for the Beatles culture-defining British rock. Both concerts will also feature a performance of Benjamin Britten’s *Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra*, with a new comedic narration written and performed by American author, actor, and humorist John Hodgman, a Brookline native, who has worked as a correspondent on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*.

**MAD MEN WITH THE MIDTOWN MEN (MAY 19, 20, & 21)**

Joining the Pops this May are The Midtown Men, four reunited stars from the original cast of Broadway’s *Jersey Boys*. Tony Award winner Christian Hoff, Michael Longoria, Daniel Reichard, and Tony Award nominee J. Robert Spencer star in this one-of-a-kind concert celebrating the music that defined this remarkable decade. The concert will feature the Boston Pops’ extensive library of the era, including the infectious rhythms of the Four Seasons, Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass, and a medley of retro TV themes including those from *Dragnet, Leave it to Beaver, Bonanza*, and *I Love Lucy* sure to transport listeners to the *Mad Men* era.

**FILM NIGHT (MAY 22 & 23)**

Guest conductor Richard Kaufman makes his Boston Pops debut at Symphony Hall for the annual Film Night concert, a perennial favorite among Pops fans. The Film Night concerts on May 22 and 23 will celebrate the illustrious career of John Williams, who over a five-decade career has become one of America’s most accomplished and successful composers for film and for the concert stage. The program will open with John Williams’s *Liberty Fanfare* and the theme to Sydney Pollack’s 1995 remake of *Sabrina*. Audiences will also hear excerpts from the 1992 Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman film *Far and Away*, and the 1987 Christian Bale and John Malkovich film *Empire of the Sun*, followed by a special focus on film music inspired by the decades-long collaboration between Mr. Williams and Steven Spielberg. Richard Kaufman leads the Boston Pops in “The Duel” from *The Adventures of Tintin*, “Marion’s Theme” from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, and the unforgettable “Flight to Neverland” from *Hook*. For the second half of the program Mr. Kaufman will lead the orchestra in excerpts from the maestro’s scores to *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, Harry Potter, Superman*, and the *Star Wars* series.

**A CELTIC SOJOURN AT POPS HOSTED BY BRIAN O’DONOVAN (MAY 27 & 28)**

On May 27 and 28, the Pops celebrates Boston’s vibrant Celtic cultural heritage with music from Ireland, including selections from the Boston Pops’ Grammy-nominated “The Celtic Album.” Brian O’Donovan,
host of WGBH’s *A Celtic Sojourn*, takes us on a journey through music both traditional and contemporary, exploring the remarkable breadth of Celtic music, which has had a profound effect on music in America. The concert will also include Irish vocalist *Karan Casey* and multi-instrumentalist *Carlos Núñez*, who will perform on a gaita (Galician bagpipe).

**SUTTON FOSTER AND “PRESIDENTS AT POPS” (JUNE 2 & 3)**
Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops welcome Broadway and television star Sutton Foster to the Symphony Hall stage on Tuesday, June 2, and again as a featured guest artist during the 34th annual “Presidents at Pops” on June 3 at Symphony Hall. Sutton Foster, who won Tony Awards for her lead roles in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (2003) and *Anything Goes* (2011) and is currently the star of the critically acclaimed television show *Younger*, which premiered in March 2015. The June 3 concert program will also feature John Hodgman, of *The Daily Show* fame, reading his new narration to Benjamin Britten’s “The Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra.” The concert will draw to a close with a celebrity guest conducting appearance by New England Patriots wide receiver Julian Edelman. The June 2 performance will also feature the winners of the 2015 Fidelity Investments Young Artists Competition at the Boston Pops.

**GOSPEL NIGHT (JUNE 6)**
Joined this year by gospel legends *The Blind Boys of Alabama*, the Boston Pops and the all-volunteer *Boston Pops Gospel Choir* will lift spirits and inspire Symphony Hall crowds during the annual Gospel Night on June 6. Winners of five Grammy Awards, The Blind Boys have toured the globe since 1944 performing with such artists as Prince, Bonnie Raitt, Stevie Wonder, Tom Waits, Willie Nelson, and Bon Iver. Conductor, pianist, composer and longtime Boston Pops collaborator Charles Floyd will lead this concert’s unique fusion of gospel, jazz, R&B, and pop.

**SIMPLY SONDHEIM (JUNE 10 & 11)**
Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops will honor America’s greatest living musical theater composer in a program called *Simply Sondheim* on June 10 and 11. This new tribute to Stephen Sondheim’s remarkable body of work will feature lush orchestral arrangements sung by Broadway stars Marin Mazzie and Jason Danieley as well as Fellows of the Tanglewood Music Center, the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s acclaimed summer academy for advanced musical study, which marks its 75th anniversary season in summer 2015. This delightful revue of the work of Stephen Sondheim will explore the full expressive range of the composer whose musical gifts to the world include *Company, Follies, Sunday in the Park with George, Sweeney Todd, Into the Woods*, and much more.

**CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE (JUNE 12 & 13)**
After sold-out performances in 2014, the Boston Pops is delighted to bring back *Cirque de la Symphonie*’s magical fusion of circus with live orchestral music. Aerial flyers, acrobats, contortionists, dancers, jugglers, balancers, and strongmen are among the talented artists who will take the stage as the Boston Pops perform their own spectacular musical feats. Music featured includes Tchaikovsky’s “Waltz” from *Swan Lake*, Saint-Saëns’ “Danse Macabre,” and Rimsky-Korsakov’s “Capriccio Espagnol.”

**BOSTON POPS SEASON CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONDUCTOR KEITH LOCKHART**
Celebrating his 20th anniversary as Boston Pops Conductor in spring 2015, Keith Lockhart is the second longest-tenured conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra since the orchestra’s founding in 1885. He took over as conductor in 1995, following John Williams’s 13-year tenure from 1980 to 1993; Mr. Williams succeeded the legendary Arthur Fiedler, who was at the helm of the orchestra for nearly 50 years. The Boston Pops, which has often been
described as “America’s Orchestra,” is both the creator and lead exemplar of the Pops orchestra tradition—one that presents concerts combining favorites of classical music with a wide variety of musical genres, with performances showcasing a diverse selection of artists from the fields of classical, jazz, Broadway, pop, country, indie, and rock, among others.

During his tenure as Boston Pops Conductor, Keith Lockhart has significantly expanded the orchestra’s programming, focused on national annual touring, and participated in major media events. He has also solidified the Pops’s place in the fabric of the New England community in ways a traditional symphonic orchestra would not be able to replicate. One of Keith Lockhart’s greatest gifts springs from his passion and instinct for virtually every kind of music, inspiring an uncanny ability to lead the Boston Pops as a vital partner in countless performance situations, always finding the best way of bringing seemingly disparate worlds of music together with the very best the Boston Pops has to offer. The list of more than 250 guest artists—a virtual “who’s who” of artists and pop culture icons of the 20th and 21st centuries—includes artists/celebrities/ensembles as diverse as Aerosmith, Ben Affleck, Buzz Aldrin, Jason Alexander, Patti Austin, Big Bird, Chris Botti, Mariah Carey, Harry Connick, Jr., Elvis Costello, Béla Fleck, Warren Haynes, Sir Elton John, Toby Keith, Nathan Lane, Yo-Yo Ma, Shaquille O’Neal, Amanda Palmer, Steve Martin, Audra McDonald, Jessye Norman, James Taylor, Sting, the United States Army Field Band, and Buckwheat Zydeco, as well as such prominent political figures as Bill Clinton, Chris Christie, Ted Kennedy, and Elizabeth Warren. A complete list of major guest artists who have worked with Mr. Lockhart and the Pops is available here.

During Keith Lockhart’s twenty-year tenure, he has conducted nearly 1,700 Boston Pops concerts, a majority of which have taken place during the orchestra’s spring and Holiday seasons in Boston’s historic Symphony Hall; Mr. Lockhart has also led the Boston Pops in annual appearances at Tanglewood, the BSO’s summer home in western Massachusetts. Keith Lockhart’s work outside Symphony Hall has been diverse and multi-faceted, focusing on the orchestra’s national exposure through touring (he has led 40 national tours to 134 cities in 33 states, as well as four international tours to Japan and Korea) and participation in some of the country’s highest-profile sporting events, including appearances at Super Bowl XXXVI, the 2008 NBA Finals, the 2013 Boston Red Sox Ring Ceremony, and the opening game of the 2007 MLB’s World Series. The annual July 4 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular—which drew a live audience of approximately 500,000 in 2014—was featured on national network television through 2013; this past summer the first-ever Boston Pops web cast brought the Independence Day celebration to 1.3 million music fans throughout the world.

Keith Lockhart has led several recordings on the RCA Victor/BMG Classics label, including two recordings that received Grammy nominations—The Celtic Album and The Latin Album. He and the Pops were a major inspiration behind the creation of BSO Classics, the in-house recording label for both the Boston Symphony and Boston Pops. The Red Sox Album (2009) and A Boston Pops Christmas: Live From Symphony Hall (2013) are two of the recent Pops albums available on BSO Classics. The Dream Lives On: A Portrait of the Kennedy Brothers (BSO Classics 2010)—featuring narrators Robert De Niro, Ed Harris, Morgan Freeman, and Cherry Jones—was a Boston Pops commission premiered during the orchestra’s 125th season in 2010 and represented a collaboration between the Boston Pops and composer Peter Boyer and lyricist Lynn Ahrens.

Programming-wise, Keith Lockhart has put an increased focus on musical theater, attracting many of the leading Broadway artists of our time, including Kristen Chenoweth, Idina Menzel, Kelli O’Hara, and Billy Porter. He has worked closely with hundreds of talented young musicians—including Fellows of the Tanglewood Music Center, college students from the Boston Conservatory and Berklee College of Music, and high school students who have been featured in the Fidelity Young Artists Competition and BSO Concerto Competition—by coaching them and creating opportunities for them to perform with the Pops. He introduced the highly successful Pops Search talent competition inspired by the success of American Idol. Mr. Lockhart has also experimented with a wide variety of new programming, including Edgefest and JAZZfest, which featured both cutting-edge artists and rising talents—including Guster, My Morning Jacket, Chick Corea, Gary Burton, Arturo Sandoval, and Diana Krall, among others. Keith Lockhart is also highly committed to the important task of continuing to build and update the Boston Pops library of music—the best and most extensive Pops library in the world with over five thousand exclusive musical
arrangements. Composers and arrangers who have worked with the pops during Mr. Lockhart’s tenure include Doug Besterman, Christopher Brubeck, Jorge Calandrelli, Tod Machover, Angela Morley, Sammy Nestico, Christopher Rouse, Don Sebesky, Michael Starobin, and Danny Troob.

Keith Lockhart has also renewed the Boston Pops’s commitment to bring the orchestra into the Boston community and to make special appearances at important civic events and ceremonies, including gubernatorial and mayoral inauguration ceremonies; the annual tree lighting event in Boston’s Public Garden; sporting events including Red Sox, Patriot, Bruins, and Celtics games; and the recent memorial service in honor of the victims of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings. He has also led free community concerts in major public spaces, including the Boston Common and Franklin Park. Mr. Lockhart and members of the Pops have also performed annually for the young patients at Children’s Hospital during the Holiday season, recently adding an appearance at Spaulding Rehabilitation Center. The Pops’s civic commitment is also notable for its ongoing connections with such prestigious colleges and universities as MIT, Tufts, Harvard, Northeastern University, Boston University, Boston College, Boston Conservatory of Music, Berklee College of Music, and New England Conservatory, many of whom are associated with the orchestra through college nights at the Pops, alumni anniversary celebrations—a tradition dating back more than a century.

Mr. Lockhart has also played a major role in the fund-raising success of the Boston Symphony Orchestra's (parent organization of the Boston Pops) most important corporate events: Presidents at Pops and A Company Christmas at Pops. Under his artistic leadership these events have raised more than $37 million for the BSO and Boston Pops, and are considered the most successful fund-raisers of their kind in the country. Fidelity Investments, a longtime supporter of the Pops and BSO, has been the main sponsor of the Boston Pops throughout Keith Lockhart’s tenure with the orchestra, which began in 1995. In addition, the corporate fund-raising events that he and the Pops present on a regular basis have helped raise millions of dollars to benefit such institutions as Boston College, The Arts Foundation of Cape Cod, and the Nantucket Cottage Hospital, among others.

Perhaps the most significant key to Keith Lockhart’s success is his ability to connect passionately with audiences through his engaging programs, his commitment to speaking directly to concert-goers from the stage with fascinating insights into the music, and his inherent understanding of the importance of what sets the Pops apart from a traditional orchestra concert—an atmosphere of music-making that is both fun and entertaining for music lovers of all ages.

In addition to occupying the Julian and Eunice Cohen Boston Pops Conductor chair, Keith Lockhart currently serves as principal conductor of the BBC Concert Orchestra in London, which he led in the June 2012 Diamond Jubilee Concert for Queen Elizabeth II, and as artistic director of the Brevard Music Center summer institute and festival in North Carolina. Prior to his appointment with the BBC, Mr. Lockhart spent eleven years as the Music Director of the Utah Symphony, which he led in the opening ceremonies of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. He has appeared as a guest conductor with virtually every major symphonic ensemble in North America, as well as several in Asia and Europe.

Prior to coming to Boston, Keith Lockhart was the associate conductor of both the Cincinnati Symphony and Cincinnati Pops orchestras, as well as music director of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. Born in Poughkeepsie, NY, Mr. Lockhart began his musical studies with piano lessons at the age of seven. He holds degrees from Furman University and Carnegie Mellon University, and honorary doctorates from several American universities. Visit keithlockhart.com for further information.

**BOSTON POPS 2015 SEASON SCHEDULE**

*Wednesday, May 6, 8 p.m.*
Opening Night
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Bernadette Peters, vocalist

Thursday, May 7, 8 p.m.
By Popular Demand
Keith Lockhart, conductor

Friday, May 8, 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 9, 8 p.m.
Saturday May 9, 3 p.m.
Singin’ in the Rain: Film with Orchestra
Keith Lockhart, conductor

Wednesday, May 13, 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 14, 8 p.m.
The Pops Plays the Beatles
Keith Lockhart, conductor

Saturday, May 16, 3 p.m.
By Popular Demand: Kids’ Choice
Keith Lockhart, conductor

Tuesday, May 19, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, May 20, 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 21, 8 p.m.
Mad Men with the Midtown Men
Keith Lockhart, Conductor
The Midtown Men, special guests

Friday, May 22, 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 23, 8 p.m.
Film Night
Richard Kaufman, conductor

Tuesday, May 26, 8 p.m.
By Popular Demand
Arthur Fiedler Concert
Keith Lockhart, conductor

Wednesday, May 27, 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 28, 8 p.m.
A Celtic Sojourn at Pops
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Brian O’Donovan, host and curator

Friday, May 29, 8 p.m.
By Popular Demand
Keith Lockhart, conductor

Tuesday, June 2, 8 p.m.
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Sutton Foster, vocalist

Wednesday, June 3, 8 p.m.
Presidents at Pops
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Sutton Foster, vocalist
Julian Edelman, special guest
John Hodgman, narrator

Friday, June 5, 8 p.m.
By Popular Demand
Keith Lockhart, conductor

Saturday, June 6, 8 p.m.
Gospel Night
Charles Floyd, conductor
The Blind Boys of Alabama, special guests

Wednesday, June 10, 8 p.m.
Thursday, June 11, 8 p.m.
Simply Sondheim
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Marin Mazzie, special guest
Jason Danieley, special guest
Members of the Tanglewood Music Center, special guests

Friday, June 12, 8 p.m.
Saturday, June 13, 3 p.m.
Saturday, June 13, 8 p.m.
Cirque de la Symphonie
Conductor, Keith Lockhart

Friday, July 3, and Saturday, July 4, 8:30 p.m.
Charles River Esplanade, Boston, MA
Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra
Keith Lockhart, conductor

**BOSTON POPS TANGLEWOOD 2015 APPEARANCES**

Friday, June 19, 8:30 p.m. Shed
Popular Artists Series
Sheryl Crow
*In concert with the Boston Pops*
Saturday, June 20, 8 p.m. Shed
Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Marin Mazzie, special guest
Jason Danieley, special guest
Tanglewood Music Center Vocal Fellows
Simply Sondheim

Sunday, July 5, 2:30 p.m. Shed
Boston Pops Orchestra
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Bernadette Peters, vocalist

Monday, July 6, 7 p.m. Shed
Members of the Boston Pops Brass and Percussion Sections
Boston Crusaders
Blue Devils
Tanglewood Brass Spectacular!

Tuesday, August 4, 8:30 p.m. Shed
Tanglewood on Parade
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Boston Pops Orchestra
Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra
Stéphane Denève, Keith Lockhart, and Andris Nelsons, conductors
Program to include
TCHAIKOVSKY 1812 Overture

Fireworks to follow the concert

Friday, August 21, 8:30 p.m. Shed
Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Cirque de la Symphonie

Saturday, August 22, 8:30 p.m. Shed
John Williams’ Film Night
Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra
John Williams and David Newman, conductors

BOSTON POPS SUMMER RUN-OUT CONCERTS

Saturday, August 8, 8:30 p.m., Jetties Beach Nantucket, MA
Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Guest Host and Performers TBA
Sunday, August 9, 5 p.m., Hyannis Town Green, Hyannis, MA
Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Guest Performer TBA