2015 BOSTON POPS SEASON CELEBRATES KEITH LOCKHART’S 20TH ANNIVERSARY AS CONDUCTOR

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

A CELTIC SOJOURN AT POPS TO FEATURE DEBUTS OF IRISH VOCALIST KARAN CASEY AND MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST CARLOS NÚÑEZ, TRADITIONAL IRISH DANCERS, SCOTTISH PIPERS, AND MUSIC FROM BOSTON POPS GRAMMY-NOMINATED “THE CELTIC ALBUM,” AS PART OF DYNAMIC PROGRAM TO BE RECORDED FOR RADIO BROADCAST ON WGBH

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

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

BOSTON POPS 2015 SEASON AND OPENING NIGHT SPONSORED BY FIDELITY INVESTMENTS®

The Boston Pops and Conductor Keith Lockhart present A Celtic Sojourn at Pops featuring the debuts of
Irish vocalist Karan Casey and multi-instrumentalist Carlos Núñez, Wednesday, May 27, and Thursday, May 28. A Celtic Sojourn at Pops—celebrating the role Celtic music has played in Boston’s vibrant cultural heritage—will feature the Boston Pops in music from their Grammy-nominated “The Celtic Album” on a program that will also put a special spotlight on traditional Irish dancers and Scottish pipers. The program, hosted by Brian O’Donovan, will be recorded for future broadcast on Mr. O’Donovan’s popular radio program, A Celtic Sojourn, on WGBH. Tickets for A Celtic Sojourn at Pops run from $24 to $94 and are available by calling 888-266-1200 or by visiting www.bostonpops.org.

MORE ON A CELTIC SOJOURN AT POPS (MAY 27 & 28)

Brian O’Donovan, host of WGBH’s A Celtic Sojourn, will join the Boston Pops and Conductor Keith Lockhart May 27 and 28 for a journey through both traditional and contemporary Celtic music that will explore the significant role that Celtic music continues to play in this country’s musical landscape. A Celtic Sojourn at Pops opens with the orchestra performing several Irish classics, including “The Highway to Kilkenny” (which will feature traditional Irish dancers), “Riverdance,” and “O’Sullivan’s March”—three works featured on the orchestra’s Grammy-nominated “The Celtic Album.” Keith Lockhart and the Pops will also perform Felix Mendelssohn’s The Hebrides, inspired by the composer’s visit to the famous archipelago off the coast of Scotland.

The concert will also showcase contemporary Irish vocalist Karan Casey in “Sixteen Come Sunday,” “Lovely Annie,” and “Wild Mountain Tyme,” a popular folk tune of Scottish origin that has been recorded by countless artists including James Taylor and Ed Sheeran. Multi-instrumentalist Carlos Núñez, will be featured on gaita (Galician bagpipe), whistles, and flute, performing traditional Celtic music and the Suite from Far and Away, composed by Boston Pops Laureate Conductor John Williams.

Brian O’Donovan, who has been a creative force behind A Celtic Sojourn at Pops, will host the program from the stage, offering insights and perspective on the artists featured and music being performed. This Boston Pops program will be broadcast on Mr. O’Donovan’s popular radio program “A Celtic Sojourn,” which airs locally on Saturdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on WGBH, 89.7.

Many of the program’s arrangements for A Celtic Sojourn at Pops were prepared by longtime Pops percussionist and arranger Pat Hollenbeck.

BOSTON POPS 2015 SPRING SEASON OVERVIEW

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.

Featuring Tony Award-winning actress Bernadette Peters, the Boston Pops Opening Night concert on May 6 will set the stage for a season featuring some of the biggest names on Broadway. Audra McDonald, another leading lady in the arenas of Broadway, television, film, and the concert stage, will bring her much-loved stage presence to 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 orchestra arrangements of his music featuring the return to the Pops stage of Broadway stars Marin Mazzie and Jason Danieley. This performance will also feature talented Vocal
Fellows from the Tanglewood Music Center, which celebrates its 75th Anniversary in the summer of 2015 (6/10 & 6/11).

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. 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).

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 led by 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).

**TICKET AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION**

Tickets for the 2015 Boston Pops season at Symphony Hall, priced from $24-125, are on sale now 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.

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**THE BOSTON POPS ORCHESTRA**
**KEITH LOCKHART, Conductor**
**Wednesday, May 27 & Thursday, May 28, 2015**

**CELTIC SOJOURN AT POPS**
**Brian O’Donovan, Host**

Magh Seola

Highway to Kilkenny (with dancers)

*The Hebrides*

Sixteen Come Sunday (with Karen Casey)

Muneira (with Carlos Nunez)

Marcha do Entrelazado de Allariz (with Carlos Nunez)

Riverdance (with dancers)

**INTERMISSION**

O’Sullivan’s March

Lovely Annie (with Karen Casey)

The King’s Shilling (with Karen Casey)

The Cat Rambles to the Child’s Saucer (with dancers)

Suite, from *Far and Away* (with Carlos Nunez)

An dro (with Carlos Nunez)

Wild Mountain Tyme (with Karen Casey)