FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DATE: April 20, 2016

TONY-AWARD WINNING BROADWAY STAR SUTTON FOSTER MAKES BOSTON POPS DEBUT IN TWO EVENINGS OF SONG AND DANCE, WITH KEITH LOCKHART CONDUCTING, THURSDAY, MAY 26, AND FRIDAY, MAY 27, AT 8 P.M.

ACCLAIMED MUSICAL THEATER CONDUCTOR DAVID CHARLES ABELL DEBUTS WITH THE POPS, LEADING THE ORCHESTRA IN A GERSHWIN CELEBRATION, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18 AND THURSDAY, MAY 19, AT 8 P.M.

BOSTON POPS ANNUAL FILM NIGHT CONCERT LED BY BOTH JOHN WILLIAMS AND KEITH LOCKHART FOR THE FIRST TIME, FEATURES NEW MUSIC FROM MR. WILLIAMS’S RECENT FILM SCORE TO STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS THURSDAY, MAY 12, AND FRIDAY, MAY 13

Boston Pops Tickets, $24-$99, may be purchased at www.bostonpops.org or by calling 888-266-1200

FOR DOWNLOADABLE PHOTOS AND BIOS OF SEASON GUEST ARTISTS, THE BOSTON POPS, AND KEITH LOCKHART PLEASE CLICK HERE, TO VIEW 2016 BOSTON POPS LISTING CLICK HERE

Broadway powerhouse and television star Sutton Foster makes her Boston Pops debut with a program entitled, A Broadway Evening with Sutton Foster, under the direction of conductor Keith Lockhart, on Thursday, May 26 and Friday, May 27 at 8 p.m. Ms. Foster, who received Tony Awards for her roles in Thoroughly Modern Millie and Anything Goes and is currently the lead in the TV Land hit Younger, will join the Pops to sing, among other selections, Stephen Sondheim’s “Anyone Can Whistle” and Cole Porter’s “Anything Goes” and “I’m Beginning To See The Light,” from the singer’s 2009 recording An Evening with Sutton Foster: Live at the Café
For the first time, Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart and Boston Pops Laureate Conductor John Williams will share the podium during the annual Film Night performances on Thursday, May 12, and Friday, May 13, at 8 p.m. These sold-out concerts will be highlighted by music from Mr. Williams’s most recent film score to Star Wars: The Force Awakens. Excerpts from Jaws, the Indiana Jones series, and the Harry Potter series will also be performed, along with additional film score favorites from Mr. Williams’s decades-long collaboration with director Steven Spielberg. Boston Pops Laureate Conductor John Williams is featured in this 60 Minutes clip and in this interview about the creation of the Star Wars music.

Additionally, American conductor David Charles Abell makes a Boston Pops debut in two concerts celebrating the rich musical heritage of George and Ira Gershwin on Wednesday, May 18, and Thursday, May 19, at 8 p.m. A Gershwin Celebration will feature vocalists Nicole Cabell and Nmon Ford as well as rising piano star Charlie Albright. Nicole and Nmon will sing such popular Gershwin duets as “Let’s Call the Whole Thing Off” and “Our Love Is Here To Stay,” as well as works from Porgy and Bess, including “Summertime,” which Ms. Cabell performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood in 2012. Charlie Albright, a young pianist known for inventive piano improvisations, will perform George Gershwin’s iconic Rhapsody in Blue. Watch Maestro David Charles Abell in this video of music from Follies during the Sondheim at 80 concert at the BBC Proms in 2010.

Tickets for the Gershwin Celebration on Wednesday, May 18 (8 p.m.) and Thursday, May 19 (8 p.m.) and A Broadway Evening with Sutton Foster program on Thursday, May 26 (8 p.m.) and Friday, May 27 (8 p.m.) are $24 to $99. Tickets for John Williams’ Film Night are sold out. Tickets for all Boston Pops Spring Season concerts may be purchased at www.bostonpops.org or by calling 888-266-1200.

Affectionately known as “America's Orchestra,” the Boston Pops, founded in 1885, 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 (1930-1979) and continuing through the innovations introduced by John Williams (1980-1993) and the new-millennium Pops spearheaded by Keith Lockhart (1995-present). Having led more than 1,700 Boston Pops concerts, Keith Lockhart marks his twenty-second season as Boston Pops Conductor in 2016. The Boston Pops season takes place in the festive atmosphere of world-famous Symphony Hall, where patrons sit at cabaret-style tables and order food and drink with family and friends, all while taking in the music and entertainment presented by the one and only Boston Pops. The 2016 Boston Pops season, May 6-June 18, under the direction of conductor Keith Lockhart, presents a wide spectrum of musical styles, representing both timeless favorites from the orchestra’s 131-year tradition of music-making and new programming directions that feature current pop culture trends designed to appeal to both the orchestra’s treasured loyal audiences and newcomers to the Boston Pops experience. For downloadable photos and bios of the season guest artists, the Boston Pops, and Keith Lockhart, please click here. For additional photos, videos, and engaging Boston Pops media, follow the orchestra on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.
FULL PROGRAM DETAILS

John Williams’ Film Night
John Williams & Keith Lockhart, conductors
Thursday & Friday, May 12 & 13, 8 p.m. (SOLD OUT)

The one and only John Williams returns to the Pops stage to lead Film Night, one of the most treasured annual Pops traditions since 1997. Sure to be a highlight of the evening, Mr. Williams, who will share the evening’s conducting duties with Keith Lockhart, will lead the orchestra in excerpts from his new score to Star Wars: The Force Awakens. The concert will also feature some of the most memorable movie music and film clips of all time, including several iconic movie themes by Williams himself—the brilliant composer of such scores as Superman, E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, and Jurassic Park. For a stream on the Boston Pops website of the orchestra performing John Williams music visit www.bso.org/mediacenter.

Gershwin Celebration
David Charles Abell, conductor
Wednesday & Thursday, May 18 & 19, 8 p.m.

American conductor David Charles Abell, who has received critical and popular acclaim for his wide-ranging work with prominent orchestras, opera companies, and film music and musical theater projects in Europe and the United States, will make his Boston Pops debut leading a Gershwin Celebration. Mr. Abell will lead the Pops in some of George Gershwin’s most beloved works including the iconic Rhapsody in Blue, as well as music from Porgy and Bess and Gershwin’s Broadway musicals. To learn more about David Charles Abell follow him on Twitter, check out his Facebook page, or visit him at www.davidcharlesabell.com. To view David Charles Abell’s musical theater work, watch this video of the maestro conducting music from Follies during the Sondheim at 80 concert at the BBC Proms in 2010. This concert will also feature vocalists Nicole Cabell and Nmon Ford, as well as Charlie Albright on piano.

A Broadway Evening with Sutton Foster
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Thursday and Friday, May 26 & 27 8 p.m.

Tony award-winning Broadway star Sutton Foster, who was elevated from Broadway chorus girl to playing the lead in Thoroughly Modern Millie, is now one of Broadway’s most versatile leading ladies, having performing the leading roles in seven Broadway shows, including Anything Goes, Little Women, The Drowsy Chaperone, Young Frankenstein, and Shrek. The Boston Pops is proud to present Ms. Foster in her debut with the orchestra in performances of many of the great Broadway hits for which she is best known, among them “Gimmie Gimmie” from Thoroughly Modern Millie and “I Get a Kick Out of You” from Anything Goes. Ms. Foster
delighted audiences as the lead in the ABC Family television series *Bunheads* from 2012 to 2013 and is currently sharing the screen with Hilary Duff as the star of surprise hit TV Land dramedy *Younger*. For a glimpse into Sutton Foster’s theatrical charm read the rave reviews of *Younger* in the *New York Times* and *The New Yorker*. The May 26 performance will also be highlighted by the debut of a new work, “Wizard,” written by Boston Pops Trumpet Michael Martin expressly for Assistant Principal Boston Pops Trumpet Benjamin Wright.

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**BOSTON POPS SPRING SEASON OVERVIEW**

The 2016 Boston Pops season, May 6-June 18, under the direction of conductor Keith Lockhart, features classic Boston Pops programming, including film scores of the silver screen, ballads from Broadway and the great American Songbook, classic rock anthems, and a Gospel Night spectacular, along with an impressive lineup of Boston Pops debuts, new programs that spotlight the best of the worlds of dance and puppetry, and the return of last year’s audience favorite, *Pops On Demand: You Choose the Tunes*. The 2016 Boston Pops season opens and closes with the debuts of two widely popular artists from the entertainment world: on Friday, May 6, the season opens with Seth MacFarlane singing American Songbook classics from the ‘40s and ‘50s; the season closes on June 17 and 18 with Brian Wilson performing *Pet Sounds*, widely acclaimed as one of the greatest albums of all time.

The 2016 Boston Pops season will also see the debuts of Sutton Foster, in an evening of song and dance, reprising many of her hit songs from her versatile Broadway career (5/26 & 27), and American conductor David Charles Abell, leading a Gershwin celebration, featuring the Pops’ acclaimed arrangements from its extraordinary library of more than 3,500 exclusive works (5/18 & 19). The Pops also welcome back Broadway favorites Marin Mazzie and Jason Danieley, as well as Laura Osnes and Justin Hopkins, for a performance celebrating *The Golden Age of Broadway* led by Keith Lockhart (6/15 & 6/16). Keith Lockhart and the Pops also welcome first-time appearances by dance stars Dmitry Chaplin from *So You Think You Can Dance* and Anna Trebunskaya from *Dancing with the Stars* and (5/7 & 8), and the first-ever collaboration with the University of Connecticut’s highly acclaimed puppet arts program, whose alumni have created and performed puppets for *Avenue Q*, *The Lion King*, and *The Muppets*, among many other mainstream movies and Broadway shows (5/21). In addition, the legendary Darlene Love, in her Boston Pops debut, joins conductor Charles Floyd for the annual Gospel Night program (6/11).

One of the most versatile entertainers working today, Mandy Patinkin, who last performed with Keith Lockhart and the Pops on the maestro’s inaugural concert at Symphony Hall in 1995, returns to the orchestra for the *Fidelity Investments Young Artists Competition Night* (June 7) and the 35th annual Presidents at Pops corporate fundraiser (June 8). Tom Scholz joins Keith Lockhart and the Pops for performances of some of BOSTON’s biggest hits of the ‘70s and ‘80s (5/10 & 11). The 2016 Boston Pops season brings the return of favorite artist Liz Callaway, featured in a full symphonic tribute to Carole King (6/9 & 10).

The season will also feature annual traditions such as the ever-popular Film Night with Boston Pops Laureate Conductor John Williams and Keith Lockhart leading the orchestra in an evening of film music classics, as well as music from Mr. Williams’s new score to *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (5/12 & 13). Keith Lockhart leads two recent programming favorites, including a special film presentation of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, with a full orchestral score performed by the Boston Pops (6/3 & 4). Following its highly successful debut last year, *Pops on Demand: You Choose the Tunes*, under the direction of Mr.
Lockhart, returns to the Pops lineup, inviting audience members to use their mobile phones to choose the music they want to hear performed (5/25, 6/1 & 14), with voting results displayed in real time. Detailed program descriptions for the 2016 Boston Pops season appear below.

**TICKET AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION**

Tickets for the 2016 Boston Pops season at Symphony Hall, priced from $24 to $130, are on sale now at [www.bostonpops.org](http://www.bostonpops.org) or 888-266-1200. All performances start at 8 p.m., except for the *Dancing with a Twist* concert on May 8, *Puppets with the Pops* concert on May 21, and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* Live with the Boston Pops performance on June 4; these Matinee Family Concerts start at 3 p.m. Tickets for the May 8 and May 21 concerts for children ages 17 and younger are 50% off. Subscription packages will be available for the 2016 Boston Pops season, ranging from $54 to $270, including a Choose-Your-Own custom subscription. Groups of 20 or more receive 15% off regular ticket prices and waived handling fees. Please call the Group Sales Office at 800-933-4255 for these details.

In general, 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 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 12 noon to 6 p.m. (with a $6.50 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 evenings, 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 Days in the Arts at Tanglewood (DARTS), 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. For more information about Presidents at Pops contact Mary Thomson at mthomson@bso.org or 617-638-9278.

**SPONSORSHIP**

Opening Night at Pops and the entire 2016 Boston Pops season are sponsored by Fidelity Investments®. The Pops *John Williams’ Film Night Series* (May 12 & 13) is sponsored by Arbella Insurance Foundation. The May 12 concert is sponsored by the Fairmont Copley Plaza, the

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John Williams & Keith Lockhart, conductors

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Charlie Albright, piano

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**A Broadway Evening with Sutton Foster**
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Sutton Foster, soloist
Benjamin Wright, trumpet (May 26 only)