KEITH LOCKHART LEADS THE BOSTON POPS IN THE 33 RD ANNUAL “A COMPANY CHRISTMAS AT POPS,” WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

THE BSO’S PREMIER HOLIDAY CORPORATE GALA FEATURES BROADWAY STAR MEGAN HILTY SINGING HOLIDAY CLASSICS AND GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS CHARLIE BAKER NARRATING “’TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS”

STEPHEN T. GANNON OF CITIZENS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND EDMUND F. KELLY, FORMERLY OF LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE, CO-CHAIR THIS YEAR’S “A COMPANY CHRISTMAS AT POPS,” WHICH HAS RAISED NEARLY $1.2 MILLION TO DATE FOR THE BOSTON SYMPHONY AND BOSTON POPS ORCHESTRAS

CORPORATE TICKET PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE BY CALLING 617-638-9272; A LIMITED NUMBER OF CONCERT-ONLY TICKETS, PRICED $39-$81, ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AT WWW.BOSTONPOPS.ORG OR 888-266-1200

“A COMPANY CHRISTMAS AT POPS” IS PART OF THE 2016 HOLIDAY POPS SEASON, NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 24, WITH 41 CONCERTS FEATURING THE BOSTON POPS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF KEITH LOCKHART AT WORLD-FAMOUS SYMPHONY HALL; CLICK HERE FOR PRESS RELEASE ABOUT 2016 HOLIDAY POPS SEASON OR VISIT WWW.BOSTONPOPS.ORG FOR SEASON DETAILS
On Wednesday, December 7, at 8 p.m., Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart will lead the 33rd annual “A Company Christmas at Pops,” with special guest vocalist Megan Hilty performing some of the best-loved songs of the holiday season. Ms. Hilty, a Tony-nominated Broadway, film, and television star, will perform selections from her latest album, A Merry Little Christmas, which will be released this holiday season (additional program details included below). The concert will also feature Governor Charlie Baker narrating the classic poem “A Visit from St. Nicholas (’Twas the Night Before Christmas).” “A Company Christmas at Pops” is part of the Holiday Pops season, which takes place November 30-December 24, at festively decorated Symphony Hall. A press release about the 2016 Holiday Pops season is available here; complete details are also available at www.bostonpops.org.

This year’s “A Company Christmas at Pops”—the BSO’s premier holiday corporate gala—has raised nearly $1.2 million to date, representing support from more than 90 companies and the leadership of event co-chairs Stephen T. (Steve) Gannon and Edmund F. (Ted) Kelly; a full listing of committee members appears below. “A Company Christmas at Pops” and its sister springtime event “Presidents at Pops” have collectively raised nearly $54 million since 1982.

Ticket packages—including cocktails, dinner, concert tickets, and recognition in the evening’s program book—are available by calling 617-638-9272. Doors open at 6 p.m. for a festive pre-concert cocktail reception, followed by a gourmet boxed dinner and the concert in the hall. A limited number of concert-only tickets, priced $39 to $81, are now available through the BSO Box Office, online at www.bostonpops.org, or by calling Symphony Charge at 888-266-1200.

ADDITIONAL 2016 “A COMPANY CHRISTMAS AT POPS” COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In addition to Mr. Gannon and Mr. Kelly serving as co-chairs of the 2016 “A Company Christmas at Pops,” Governor of Massachusetts Charles D. Baker and Mayor of Boston Martin J. Walsh serve as honorary chairs. Additional Committee Members include: William F. Achtmeyer, Parthenon-EY; George T. Albrecht, Sr., Albrecht Auto Group; Christopher R. Anderson, Massachusetts High Technology Council, Inc.; Bob Atkinson, Adage Capital Management; William F. Bayers, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; Karen S. Bressler, Amuleto Mexican Table; Miceal Chamberlain, Bank of America; Richard F. Connolly, Jr., Morgan Stanley; Robert DeSalvio, Wynn Boston Harbor; Andrew Dreyfus, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts; John F. Fish, Suffolk Construction; Christopher Goode, Dell EMC; Wayne J. Griffin, Wayne J. Griffin Electric, Inc.; Darlene L. Jordan, The Gerald R. Jordan Foundation; Karen Kaplan, Hill Holliday; David H. Long, Liberty Mutual Insurance; Sean McGrath, Highland Street Foundation; Joseph C. McNay, Essex Investment Management Company and The New England Foundation; Michael A. McShane, Willis Towers Watson; Carol Meyrowitz, The TJX Companies, Inc.; Pete S. Michaels, Greenberg Traurig, LLP; George R. Neble, EY; Peter Palandjian, Intercontinental Real Estate Corporation; Joseph F. Patton, Jr., J.P. Marvel Investment Advisors, Inc.; Regina M. Pisa, Goodwin; John F. Power, Farley White Interests; Robert L. Reynolds, Putnam Investments and Great-West Financial; George Terpilowski, Fairmont Copley Plaza; and Christoph Westphal, Flex Pharma.

PROGRAM DETAILS FOR “A COMPANY CHRISTMAS AT POPS,” WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Featuring conductor Keith Lockhart, the Boston Pops, and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus led by guest chorus conductor William Cutter, the 2016 “A Company Christmas at Pops” concert presents some of
the most beloved holiday music including selections from the 2013 popular recording *A Boston Pops Christmas – Live From Symphony Hall*. The program kicks off with a new angel-themed medley arranged by Mark Cumberland called “A Christmas Prelude: Angels from the Realm of Glory” featuring the Back Bay Ringers handbell ensemble, followed by “Mary’s Little Boy Child,” “A Christmas Scherzo,” and “Light One Candle.” The Pops and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus will then perform “Home for the Holidays,” a new medley arranged by David Chase featuring “There’s No Place Like Home for the Holidays,” “I’ll Be Home for Christmas,” and “Home” from *The Wiz*. Mr. Chase’s lively arrangement of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” closes out the first half of the program.

The program also features a performance of “A Visit from St. Nicholas (‘Twas the Night Before Christmas),” with Governor of Massachusetts Charlie Baker as special guest narrator. After intermission, the Pops will perform Leroy Anderson’s classic “Sleigh Ride,” a piece written expressly for the orchestra and regularly ranked by ASCAP as one of the most popular holiday tunes. Megan Hilty will then take the stage to perform her renditions of some of the most iconic holiday tunes with Keith Lockhart, the Boston Pops, and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, including “Jingle Bells” and “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year,” which are featured on her new album, “A Merry Little Christmas.”

After a visit from the one-and-only Santa Claus, the audience will be invited to join *A Merry Little Sing-Along* that includes such favorites as “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” “The Christmas Song,” and “Winter Wonderland.”

**BACKGROUND ON “A COMPANY CHRISTMAS AT POPS”**

“A Company Christmas at Pops” is a unique holiday gala that celebrates the extraordinary partnership between the corporate community and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Since their inception, “A Company Christmas at Pops,” an annual holiday tradition since 1984 for area business leaders and their guests, and its sister springtime event, “Presidents at Pops,” which began in 1982, have raised nearly $54 million combined. The revenue raised through these events helps support the BSO’s Education and Community Engagement programs.

**TRADITION OF INVITING YOUNG PEOPLE TO “A COMPANY CHRISTMAS AT POPS” CONTINUES**

Building on a 32-year tradition, 200 youngsters from children’s service organizations throughout greater Boston will be invited as special guests to this year’s event. The “A Company Christmas at Pops” Children’s Program starts at Fairmont Copley Plaza, where children will enjoy dinner, musical entertainment, and a visit and a variety of gifts from Santa. Silver Fox Motorcoaches will provide buses to transport the children from Fairmont Copley Plaza to Symphony Hall, where the children will join the corporate guests for the concert and receive acknowledgement from the stage by conductor Keith Lockhart.

**HOLIDAY POPS SEASON OVERVIEW**

One of New England’s favorite holiday traditions, the 2016 Holiday Pops season, November 30-December 24, at festively decorated Symphony Hall will feature the Boston Pops and Tanglewood Festival Chorus, under the direction of Keith Lockhart, performing beloved classics of the season, as well as two new arrangements: the angel-themed “A Christmas Prelude: Angels from the Realm of
Glory” medley arranged by Mark Cumberland, and “Home for the Holidays” arranged by David Chase and featuring “There’s No Place Like Home for the Holidays,” “I’ll Be Home for Christmas,” and “Home” from The Wiz. Both new works feature the Tanglewood Festival Chorus. For additional details about this year’s Holiday Pops programs, which feature a visit from Santa Claus at every performance and seven special Kids’ Matinees, please see the detailed description below or visit www.bostonpops.org. Tickets for the 2016 Holiday Pops season, $32-$143, are on sale now and are available by visiting www.bostonpops.org or calling 888-266-1200.

FULL-LENGTH HOLIDAY POPS PERFORMANCE ON PBS
For the first time in 10 years, PBS will feature the Boston Pops in a full-length Holiday Pops concert that includes performances by the beloved Tanglewood Festival Chorus, country star Sara Evans, and vocalist Justin Hopkins. Actor Robert Morse of Mad Men fame joins the Pops to narrate “‘Twas the Night Before Christmas,” and Santa Claus himself pays Symphony Hall a special visit. The hour-long “Happy Holidays with the Boston Pops” was directed by David Stern and produced by longtime Pops video artist Susie Dangel. Further details, including the program’s air date, will be announced at a later date.

FREE OUTDOOR EVENTS FEATURING THE MUSIC OF HOLIDAY POPS
Boston residents and tourists can hear the celebrated music of the Holiday Pops season for free as part of Blink! A Light and Sound Extravaganza—a seven-minute-long sound and light spectacle at Faneuil Hall that illuminates the Boston skyline with over 350,000 LED lights that “dance” to the recorded music of the Holiday Pops. This light show runs every thirty minutes throughout the holiday season and is seen by more than 200,000 people annually. Blink! A Light and Sound Extravaganza kicks off on Saturday, November 19, at 8 p.m., and will be the focus of a live WBZ-TV telecast celebrating the start of Boston’s holiday season. The WBZ-TV telecast will feature performances by Boston Pops musicians and a variety of performing arts groups, and will end with the annual lighting of the Faneuil Hall Christmas tree. On Monday, November 28, the orchestra’s ten-member “Pop Up Pops” group will also give a free performance at Logan Airport and appear at the Annual Copley Square Tree Lighting with Mayor Martin J. Walsh.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO LISTEN TO THE MUSIC OF THE BOSTON POPS THIS SEASON
Continuing a long-standing tradition to share the magic of the holiday season with cities throughout New England, conductor Keith Lockhart will take the Holiday Pops concerts on the road, touring to Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts in Storrs, CT (12/3); Hanover Theatre in Worcester, MA (12/4); Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester, NH (12/10); and Lowell Memorial Auditorium in Lowell, MA (12/11). Keith Lockhart and members of the Boston Pops brass and rhythm sections will also entertain patients at Boston Children’s Hospital and adults and children at Spaulding Rehabilitation Center on December 15. Boston Pops holiday tunes will stream on the web at www.bostonpops.org, as well as under the Symphony Hall marquee in Boston, from the last week of November through the end of December, making the special seasonal tunes of the Pops available to all free of charge.

On December 30, at noon and 7 p.m., and December 31, at noon, the Boston Pops and conductor Constantine Kitsopoulos will perform the full score to the iconic 1985 movie Back to the Future.
alongside a screening of the entire film. Alan Silvestri, the score’s original composer, has written an additional twenty minutes of new music especially for this concert presentation of the film.

The Boston Pops Swing Orchestra will be joined by Boston's legendary bandleader Bo Winiker and America’s Got Talent winner Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr., in a gala concert to ring in the New Year at Symphony Hall on Saturday, December 31, at 10:15 p.m.; doors open at 8 p.m. with dancing and music by The Winiker Swing Orchestra.

**TICKET INFORMATION FOR A COMPANY CHRISTMAS AT POPS**
Ticket packages for "A Company Christmas at Pops"—including cocktails, dinner, concert tickets, and recognition in the evening's program book—are still available starting at $5,500. Please call Mary Thomson at 617-638-9278 for more information. A limited number of “A Company Christmas at Pops” gala tickets are currently available for $500 each for floor seats and $300 for balcony seats, and include the cocktail reception, boxed dinner, and concert. A limited number of concert-only tickets are now available for public sale through the BSO Box Office, online at bostonpops.org, and by calling Symphony Charge at 888-266-1200. Concert-only tickets range from $39 to $81. Please note that these tickets do not include the gala event prior to the concert, and doors will open at 7:30 p.m. for concert-only ticketholders. Companies interested in information about this program or other corporate programs at the BSO should contact Mary Thomson, Director of Corporate Initiatives, at 617-638-9278.

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**PRESS CONTACT:**
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