“HAPPY HOLIDAYS WITH THE BOSTON POPS” AIRS ON PBS STATIONS NATIONWIDE THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF DECEMBER; CONCERT TO AIR ON WGBH ON 12/17, 12/22, AND 12/25, AND ON WGBX ON 12/24

NEW HOUR-LONG SPECIAL FEATURES CONDUCTOR KEITH LOCKHART AND THE BOSTON POPS, THE TANGLEWOOD FESTIVAL CHORUS, ACTOR ROBERT MORSE, COUNTRY STAR SARA EVANS, VOCALIST JUSTIN HOPKINS, AND SANTA CLAUS

For the first time in 10 years, PBS will feature Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops in a full-length Holiday Pops concert showcasing the singing talents of the beloved Tanglewood Festival Chorus, country star Sara Evans, and vocalist Justin Hopkins at Boston’s world-famous Symphony Hall. “Happy Holidays with the Boston Pops” also features actor Robert Morse—known for his roles as Bertram Cooper on “Mad Men” and his Tony Award-winning J. Pierrepont Finch in “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying”—narrating the classic poem “A Visit from St. Nicholas (’Twas the Night Before Christmas).” Finally, a Holiday Pops concert wouldn’t be complete without a special visit from the one and only Santa Claus.

The hour-long special highlights the Boston Pops Orchestra in more than a dozen festive tunes, including such favorite Holiday Pops traditions as David Chase’s lively rendition of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” featuring the Tanglewood Festival Chorus; a sing-along of beloved holiday tunes such as “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” “Winter Wonderland,” and “Jingle Bells”; and of course, a rousing performance of “Sleigh Ride,” which was written expressly for the Pops in 1948. Bass-baritone Justin Hopkins joins Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops for “Mary, Did You Know?” while country singer and songwriter Sara
Evans performs selections from her 2014 holiday album including “At Christmas” and “Silent Night.” “Happy Holidays with the Boston Pops” was produced by Susan Dangel and directed by David Stern.

“Happy Holidays with the Boston Pops” will air on Boston’s WGBH 2 on Saturday, December 17, at 7 p.m.; Thursday, December 22, at 9 p.m.; and Sunday, December 25, at 10:30 a.m. It will also air on WGBX 44 on Saturday, December 24, at 5 p.m. Various PBS stations nationwide will broadcast “Happy Holidays with the Boston Pops”; please check your local listings for more information.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF HOLIDAY POPS
Founded in 1885, the Boston Pops has been presenting its special series of holiday concerts since 1973; they began under the leadership of Arthur Fiedler with a three-concert series at Symphony Hall. Since that time, public demand for the performances has continued to grow and the season has expanded to include over 45 performances each holiday season, though many of the concerts continue to sell out each year. The Holiday Pops season takes place in the special atmosphere of world-famous Symphony Hall—specially decorated to evoke all the magic and charm of the season—where Pops 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. In 1978, the orchestra began a new Christmastime tradition of bringing its unique Holiday Pops concerts to venues throughout New England and the Northeast.

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