FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOSTON POPS AND CONDUCTOR KEITH LOCKHART EMBARK ON A FIVE-CITY FLORIDA TOUR, FEBRUARY 1-6, 2017

“A BRITISH INVASION: THE BOSTON POPS PLAYS THE BEATLES” PROGRAM TO FEATURE BELOVED SONGS BY SUCH ICONIC BRITISH BANDS AS THE BEATLES, THE WHO, AND LED ZEPPELIN; AUTHOR AND ACTOR JOHN HODGMAN JOINS THE POPS TO READ HIS OWN NARRATION TO BENJAMIN BRITTEN’S “THE YOUNG PERSON’S GUIDE TO THE ORCHESTRA”

POPS TO PERFORM “A BRITISH INVASION” AT BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN FORT LAUDERDALE (2/1); VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL IN SARASOTA (2/2); DR. PHILLIPS CENTER IN ORLANDO (2/3); TIMES-UNION CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN JACKSONVILLE (2/4); AND KRAVIS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN WEST PALM BEACH (2/6)

“A BRITISH INVASION: THE BOSTON POPS PLAYS THE BEATLES” SPONSORED BY FIDELITY INVESTMENTS®

The Boston Pops and conductor Keith Lockhart will showcase the extraordinary range of “America’s Orchestra” in five Florida cities from February 1-6 with “A British Invasion: The Boston Pops Plays the Beatles.” This program focuses on the music of beloved British rock bands of the ’60s and ’70s that forever changed America’s musical landscape, including the Beatles, The Who, and Led Zeppelin. Such popular Beatles songs as “A Hard Day’s Night,” “Yesterday,” and “Eleanor Rigby” will be given the orchestral treatment, and favorite classical English works by Elgar and Handel will be performed. American author and actor John Hodgman will join Keith Lockhart and the Pops to read his own original humorous narration of Britten’s “The Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra,” Op. 34.
QUOTE FROM BOSTON POPS CONDUCTOR KEITH LOCKHART
“The upcoming Boston Pops Florida tour is sure to put a special focus on the orchestra’s amazing versatility, the very essence of what makes it ‘America's Orchestra,’” said Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart.

“This ‘British Invasion’ program highlights British classical and rock ‘n roll music, starting with Edward Elgar’s ‘Pomp and Circumstance March’ and a hilarious new version of Benjamin Britten’s ‘The Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra,’ written and narrated by author and humorist John Hodgman. The ‘invasion’ continues with such iconic popular songs as the Beatles’ ‘Yesterday,’ The Who’s ‘Pinball Wizard,’ and Led Zeppelin’s classic ‘Stairway to Heaven’—presenting a unique orchestral take on some of the great music that has shaped the fabric of American culture.

“We hope this program that represents the very best of the Boston Pops—its innovative spirit and its great tradition of presenting the very best of classical and classic American music—will bring joy to our wonderful fans throughout Florida.”

MORE ON “A BRITISH INVASION: THE BOSTON POPS PLAYS THE BEATLES” PROGRAM
More than 50 years ago, four lads from Liverpool known as the Beatles changed the course of popular music forever, and their influence still reverberates throughout the music world. Throughout their February 2017 tour of Florida, Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra will perform beloved songs by the Beatles, The Who, and Led Zeppelin, all arranged in breathtaking symphonic treatments.

The first half of the concert includes favorite classical compositions from the British Isles such as Edward Elgar’s Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 and George Frideric Handel’s Suite from Water Music. Author and actor John Hodgman joins the Pops to read his own hilarious original narration of Benjamin Britten’s “The Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra.”

After a brief intermission, Maestro Lockhart and the Pops perform a medley of Beatles hits that helped firmly establish Beatlemania stateside in 1964: “A Hard Day’s Night,” “And I Love Her,” and “Can’t Buy Me Love.” Other Beatles selections include “Eleanor Rigby,” “Yesterday,” and “When I’m 64,” followed by arrangements of The Who’s “Tommy Overture/Pinball Wizard” and Led Zeppelin’s classic “Stairway to Heaven.” The concert concludes with two more iconic Beatles tunes: “Here Comes the Sun” and “The Long and Winding Road.”

KEITH LOCKHART BIOGRAPHY
Having celebrated his twentieth anniversary as Boston Pops Conductor in 2015, Keith Lockhart is the second longest-tenured conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra since its founding in 1885. He took over as conductor in 1995, following John Williams’s thirteen-year tenure from 1980 to 1993; Mr. Williams succeeded the legendary Arthur Fiedler, who was at the helm of the orchestra for nearly fifty years. Keith Lockhart has conducted nearly 1,800 Boston Pops concerts, most of which have taken place during the orchestra’s spring and holiday seasons in
Boston’s historic Symphony Hall. He has also led annual Boston Pops appearances at Tanglewood, forty national tours to 134 cities in 33 states, and four international tours to Japan and Korea. The annual July 4 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular—which this year drew a live audience of 800,000 to the Esplanade—was featured on national network television through 2013 and was broadcast on CBS this year to an audience of 4.5 million viewers. The list of more than 250 guest artists with whom Mr. Lockhart has collaborated is a virtual “who’s who” of performers and pop culture icons. He has led eight albums on the RCA Victor/BMG Classics label, including two—The Celtic Album and The Latin Album—that earned Grammy nominations. Recent releases on Boston Pops Recordings include The Red Sox Album, A Boston Pops Christmas–Live from Symphony Hall, and The Dream Lives On: A Portrait of the Kennedy Brothers—featuring narrators Robert De Niro, Ed Harris, Morgan Freeman, and Cherry Jones—which was a Boston Pops commission premiered in 2010 during the orchestra’s 125th season. Keith Lockhart’s increased focus on musical theater has attracted leading Broadway artists to the Pops stage. 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 area high school students. He introduced the PopSearch talent competition and the innovative JazzFest and EdgeFest series, featuring prominent jazz and indie artists performing with the Pops. 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 BBC appointment, he spent eleven years as music director of the Utah Symphony, which he led at 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, he 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, Keith 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.

ABOUT THE BOSTON POPS
Affectionately known as “America's Orchestra,” the Boston Pops 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 and continuing through the innovations introduced by John Williams and the new-millennium Pops spearheaded by Keith Lockhart. With the 125th anniversary season in 2010, the Boston Pops reached a landmark moment in a remarkable history that began with its founding in 1885. Four years earlier, in 1881, Civil War veteran Henry Lee Higginson founded the Boston Symphony Orchestra, calling its establishment “the dream of my life.” From the start he intended to present, in the warmer months, concerts of light classics and the popular music of the day. From a practical perspective, Higginson realized that these “lighter” performances would provide year-round employment for his musicians. The “Promenade Concerts,” as they were originally called, were soon informally known as “Popular Concerts,” which eventually became shortened to “Pops,” the name officially adopted in 1900. Some people may not realize that there were seventeen Pops conductors, beginning with the German Adolf Neuendorff, who preceded Arthur Fiedler, the first American-born musician to lead the orchestra. In his nearly 50-year tenure as Pops Conductor (1930-1979), he established the Boston Pops as a national icon. When John Williams (1980-1993) succeeded Arthur Fiedler in 1980, he was the most highly acclaimed composer in Hollywood, and today, with 50 Academy Award nominations, he is the most-nominated living person in Academy history. With the Pops, Mr. Williams continued the orchestra’s prolific recording tradition with a series of best-selling recordings for the Philips and Sony Classical labels, broadened and updated the Pops repertoire, and entertained audiences with live orchestral accompaniment to film clips of memorable movie scenes, many of which featured iconic music from his own film scores. Having led nearly 1,800 Boston Pops concerts, Keith Lockhart (1995-present) celebrated
his twentieth anniversary as Boston Pops Conductor in 2015. In response to the ever-diversifying trends in music, Keith Lockhart has taken the Pops in new directions, creating programs that reach out to a broader and younger audience by presenting artists—both established performers and rising stars—from virtually every corner of the entertainment world, all the while maintaining the Pops’ appeal to its core audience. Mr. Lockhart’s tenure has been marked by a dramatic increase in touring, the orchestra’s first Grammy nominations, the first major network national broadcast of the Fourth of July spectacular, and the release of the Boston Pops’ first self-produced and self-distributed recordings.

“A BRITISH INVASION: THE BOSTON POPS PLAYS THE BEATLES” TOUR ITINERARY

Wednesday, February 1, 8 p.m.
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Tickets: [https://www.browardcenter.org/events/detail/classical1617_bostonpops](https://www.browardcenter.org/events/detail/classical1617_bostonpops)
Price: $27.50 - $145

Thursday, February 2, 8 p.m.
Sarasota, FL
Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall
Price: $76 - $146

Friday, February 3, 8 p.m.
Orlando, FL
Walt Disney Theater at Dr. Phillips Center
Price: $49.50 - $95

Saturday, February 4, 8 p.m.
Jacksonville, FL
Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts
Tickets: [http://www.fscjartistseries.org/shows-tickets/boston-pops-orchestra](http://www.fscjartistseries.org/shows-tickets/boston-pops-orchestra)
Price: $44.75 - $260

Monday, February 6, 8 p.m.
West Palm Beach, FL
Kravis Center for the Performing Arts
Price: $35 - $150