FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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BOSTON POPS ESPLANADE ORCHESTRA AND CONDUCTOR KEITH LOCKHART EMBARK ON A SEVEN-CITY, SEVEN-STATE MIDWEST TOUR FEATURING THE MUSIC OF GEORGE GERSHWIN, MARCH 24-APRIL 2, 2017

ICONIC BROADWAY SONGSTRESS BERNADETTE PETERS TO JOIN BOSTON POPS FOR PROGRAMS AT THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE OF ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY IN CHICAGO, IL (3/31) AND NISWONGER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER IN VAN WERT, OH (4/1)

KEITH LOCKHART AND THE BOSTON POPS ALSO TO PERFORM AT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN KANSAS CITY, MO (3/24); UNIVERSITY OF IOWA’S HANCHER AUDITORIUM IN IOWA CITY, IA (3/25); LIED CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN LINCOLN, NE (3/26); WASHINGTON PAVILION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES IN SIOUX FALLS, SD (3/27); AND THE PALLADIUM AT THE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN CARMEL, IN (4/2)

"BY GEORGE, THE BOSTON POPS PLAYS GERSHWIN" TOUR PROGRAM TO KICK OFF WITH A NEW ARRANGEMENT OF THE OVERTURE TO NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT, FOLLOWED BY THE ORIGINAL PAUL WHITEMAN VERSION OF AN AMERICAN IN PARIS; LONGTIME POPS COLLABORATOR MICHAEL CHERTOCK TO PERFORM "I GOT RHYTHM" VARIATIONS AND RHAPSODY IN BLUE; ACCLAIMED VOCALISTS JUSTIN HOPKINS AND ERICA SPYRES TO SING "LET'S CALL THE WHOLE THING OFF" AND A MEDLEY ENTITLED "'S WONDERFUL, 'S MARVELOUS, 'S GERSHWIN"

The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra and conductor Keith Lockhart will showcase the music of George Gershwin during a seven-city seven-state Midwest tour, March 24-April 2. Entitled “By George! The Boston Pops Plays Gershwin,” these programs feature many of the orchestra's highly acclaimed orchestrations of Gershwin's most iconic works, taken from its unparalleled library of 3,400 exclusive
arrangements and compositions. Among the top audience favorites during the orchestra's spring season at home in Boston, these Boston Pops Gershwin programs will be performed in Kansas City, Missouri (3/24); Iowa City, Iowa (3/5); Lincoln, Nebraska (3/26); Sioux Falls, South Dakota (3/27); Chicago, Illinois (3/31), Van Wert, Ohio (4/1), and Carmel, Indiana (4/2).

"BY GEORGE, THE BOSTON POPS PLAYS GERSHWIN" TOUR PROGRAM DETAILS
"By George, The Boston Pops Plays Gershwin" tour program will kick off with a new arrangement of the overture from George and Ira Gershwin's musical Nice Work If You Can Get It. The program will also feature such popular works as original Paul Whiteman version of George Gershwin’s An American in Paris. “Fascinating Rhythm” and the instantly recognizable Rhapsody in Blue and “I Got Rhythm” Variations will showcase the talents of longtime Pops collaborator Michael Chertock. After intermission, acclaimed vocalists Justin Hopkins and Erica Spyres will entertain audiences with such popular Gershwin duets as “Let’s Call the Whole Thing Off,” from the 1937 film Shall We Dance, and a medley entitled “‘S Wonderful, ‘S Marvelous, ‘S Gershwin.” Mr. Chertock, Mr. Hopkins, and Ms. Spyres will be the featured guest artists for concerts in Kansas City, MO (3/24), Iowa City, IA (3/25), Sioux Falls, SD (3/27), and Carmel, IN (4/2).

Award-winning actress and celebrated Broadway performer Bernadette Peters joins the orchestra for two tour performances, first at The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University in Chicago, IL (3/31) and again as part of the Niswonger Performing Arts Center’s 10th Anniversary Gala in Van Wert, OH (4/1). The Pops performance at the Lied Center for the Performing Arts in Lincoln, Nebraska on March 26 opens with a Gershwin tribute and also includes a “Best of the Boston Pops” set spotlighting music from Boston Pops Conductor Laureate John Williams’ score to “Star Wars,” as well as orchestral renditions of Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody,” and ABBA’s “Dancing Queen.”

QUOTE FROM KEITH LOCKHART, JULIAN AND EUNICE BOSTON POPS CONDUCTOR
“For our ‘By George! The Boston Pops Plays Gershwin’ program, the Boston Pops celebrates many of the classic masterpieces of George Gershwin, a singular, consummate musician, and one of our country's greatest and most influential composers, beloved by music fans far and wide. Featuring dazzling one-of-a-kind arrangements from the Boston Pops exclusive library, our tribute to the incomparable George Gershwin no doubt encompasses the lively and innovative spirit of the Boston Pops.

“We are particularly thrilled to perform several of Gershwin's most iconic works, including ‘Rhapsody in Blue’ and ‘An American in Paris’ the way they were first heard—in the style of Paul Whiteman and the early jazz orchestras that brought jazz from speakeasies to the concert hall. We’ll also trace Gershwin’s scope of composition styles, from the popular song ‘Swanee’ to his brilliant concert music and extraordinary Broadway works. The exquisitely talented Bernadette Peters, Boston Pops’ favorite pianist Michael Chertock, and two exceptionally gifted young singers, Justin Hopkins and Erica Spyres, are sure to add luster and excitement to each performance.

“All of us at the Boston Pops hope that our fans throughout the midwest come away from these Gershwin programs with a newfound sense of pride and inspiration for this towering figure in the pantheon of American music.”

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.

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 in 2016 drew a live audience of 800,000 to the Esplanade—was featured on national network television through 2013 and was broadcast on CBS last 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](http://keithlockhart.com) for further information.

**BERNADETTE PETERS BIOGRAPHY**

Bernadette Peters has dazzled audiences and critics with her performances on stage and television, in concert, and on recordings. While best known for her theater work, Ms. Peters also boasts an impressive list of television credits, which includes Amazon Prime’s highly popular *Mozart in the Jungle* (2016 Golden Globe winner for Best TV Comedy or Musical series) and the new CBS series, *The Good Fight*, a spin-off of *The Good Wife*. Among her numerous accolades are three Tony Awards, a Golden Globe, two Grammy Awards, three Emmy nominations, and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. She recently appeared in City Center’s Encores! production *A Bed and a Chair: A New York Love Affair* featuring the music of Stephen Sondheim and orchestrations by Wynton Marsalis. Other recent Broadway credits include Stephen Sondheim’s *A Little Night Music* and *Follies*, which also played the Kennedy Center. Ms. Peters received both Tony and Drama Desk awards for her performance in the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *Song and Dance*. She earned her second Tony Award for her performance in *Annie Get Your Gun*. She also received Tony nominations for her outstanding performances as Momma Rose in Sam Mendes’s critically acclaimed revival of *Gypsy*; Neil Simon’s *The Goodbye Girl*; Stephen Sondheim’s Pulitzer Prize-winning musical *Sunday in the Park with George*; the Jerry Herman/Gower Champion ode to the movies, *Mack and Mabel*; and the Leonard Bernstein/Comden and Green musical *On The Town*. In addition, she earned a Drama Desk nomination for her unforgettable portrayal of the Witch in Stephen Sondheim’s *Into the Woods*. Other television credits include NBC-TV’s *Smash*, and ABC-TV’s *Grey’s Anatomy* and *Ugly Betty*, to name a few. In addition to starring in the Lifetime TV movie *Living Proof*, Bernadette Peters has lit up the silver screen in seventeen films throughout her distinguished career, garnering a Golden Globe Award for *Pennies From Heaven*. Other film credits include *The Jerk*, *The Longest Yard*, *Silent Movie*, *Annie*, *Pink Cadillac*, *Slaves of New York*, *Alice*, *Impromptu*, *It Runs in the Family*, and *Coming Up Roses*. Her six solo albums include the Grammy-nominated *I’ll Be Your Baby Tonight, Sondheim, Etc.: Bernadette Peters Live at Carnegie Hall*, and *Bernadette Peters Loves Rodgers & Hammerstein*, in addition to numerous original Broadway cast recordings. Ms. Peters devotes her time and talents to numerous events that benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Her “pet project,” Broadway Barks (co-founded with Mary Tyler Moore), is an annual, star-studded dog and cat adoption event that benefits shelter animals throughout the New York City area. She is a *New York Times* best-selling author who has penned three children’s books: *Broadway Barks*, *Stella Is a Star*, and *Stella and Charlie: Friends Forever*. All of her proceeds from the sale of these books benefit Broadway Barks. Bernadette Peters resides in New York with her rescue dogs, Charlie and Rosalia.

**“BY GEORGE! THE BOSTON POPS PLAYS GERSHWIN” TOUR ITINERARY**

**Friday, March 24, 7:30 p.m.**
Kansas City, MO
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts
Price: $85

**Saturday, March 25, 8 p.m.**
Iowa City, IA
University of Iowa Hancher Auditorium
Tickets: [https://hancher.uiowa.edu/2016-17/boston-pops](https://hancher.uiowa.edu/2016-17/boston-pops)
Price: $50 - $10
Sunday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.
Lied Center for the Performing Arts
Lincoln, NE
Tickets: [http://tickets.liedcenter.org/single/SYOS.aspx?p=858&tnewq=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000&tnewp=d38935d9-9b93-4648-89d2-6e941f964033&tnewts=1487093844&tnewc=liedcenter&tnewe=oneday17&tnewrt=AfterEvent&tnewht=c71e0faae68622a468b643f244e18c2](http://tickets.liedcenter.org/single/SYOS.aspx?p=858&tnewq=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000&tnewp=d38935d9-9b93-4648-89d2-6e941f964033&tnewts=1487093844&tnewc=liedcenter&tnewe=oneday17&tnewrt=AfterEvent&tnewht=c71e0faae68622a468b643f244e18c2)
Price: $27.50 - $99

Monday, March 27, 8 p.m.
Washington Pavilion of Arts and Sciences
Sioux Falls, SD
Tickets: [https://www.washingtonpavilion.org/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOParam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=7ED965EE-5D29-4E13-A88D-45EE5B266CCD](https://www.washingtonpavilion.org/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOParam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=7ED965EE-5D29-4E13-A88D-45EE5B266CCD)
Price: $90.50

Friday, March 31, 7:30 p.m.
Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University
Chicago, IL
Price: $35 - $146

Saturday, April 1, 8 p.m.
Niswonger Performing Arts Center
Van Wert, OH
Tickets: [https://npacvw.ticketforce.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=329](https://npacvw.ticketforce.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=329)
Price: $100 - $250

Sunday, April 2, 7 p.m.
The Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts
Carmel, IN
Price: $65 - $145