FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 30, 2017

BOSTON POPS AND CONDUCTOR KEITH LOCKHART ANNOUNCE
2017 HOLIDAY POPS SOCIAL MEDIA CONTEST—A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME
CHANCE TO NARRATE “‘TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS,”
LIVE WITH “AMERICA’S ORCHESTRA,” AT A HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT
THIS DECEMBER

CONTESTANTS CAN UPLOAD VIDEOS OF THEMSELVES READING “‘TWAS THE
NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS” TO FACEBOOK, TWITTER, OR INSTAGRAM, WITH THE
HASHTAG #TWASTHEPOPS, FOR A CHANCE TO JOIN THE ORCHESTRA ON STAGE IN
PERFORMANCE ON DECEMBER 13 AT 4 P.M.

TICKETS FOR THE 2017 HOLIDAY POPS SEASON ON SALE NOW
FROM $33 TO $160 AT WWW.BOSTONPOPS.ORG OR 888-266-1200

FOR PHOTOS OF THE BOSTON POPS HOLIDAY SEASON PLEASE CLICK HERE

SEASON SPONSORED BY FIDELITY INVESTMENTS®

This December, the Boston Pops and conductor Keith Lockhart will hold a special Holiday Pops social media contest, the winner of which will narrate Clement Clark Moore's classic poem “A Visit from St. Nicholas (‘Twas the Night Before Christmas)” live on stage with the orchestra on Wednesday, December 13 at 4 p.m. during a Holiday Pops concert. The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform alongside the Boston Pops, “America’s Orchestra,” is open to contestants of all ages and all locations, although the orchestra is not able to provide travel and accommodations. To enter, contestants can upload a video of themselves reading Clement Clark Moore’s “A Visit from St. Nicholas (‘Twas the Night Before Christmas)” on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, making sure to use the hashtag #TwasthePops in the caption. Contestants should state their name in the video and say they are auditioning to read “‘Twas
the Night Before Christmas” with the Boston Pops. The first three stanzas of the poem (see below) should be read during the video. Those with private social media accounts should make sure to post the video directly on the Boston Pops Facebook page or send the video by a direct message to @theBostonPops on Twitter or Instagram. Three finalists will be invited to an in-person audition at Symphony Hall on December 12 to be judged by Keith Lockhart. The winning contestant will narrate with the Boston Pops on December 13 and receive five tickets for his or her family and friends to enjoy the performance. For complete terms and conditions, please click here. Videos must be submitted by Friday, December 8 at 5 p.m.

Readings of “’Twas the Night Before Christmas” have become an annual tradition during the Holiday Pops season since first appearing on the 1982 Holiday programs. The Pops has welcomed many celebrities to the Symphony Hall stage to read the Christmas classic, including top politicians (Mayors Marty J. Walsh and the late Thomas Menino, Governors Charlie Baker and Deval Patrick, and Senator Elizabeth Warren, to name a few); sports stars, actors, models, and musicians (including Ben Affleck, Amanda Palmer, Mad Men’s Robert Morse, Robin Williams, Joey McIntyre, Shawn Thornton, Brad Marchand, and Miss Universe Olivia Culpo), and countless favorite Boston-area TV and radio personalities. This year’s Holiday Pops programs will feature an orchestral arrangement of the piece featuring the angelic voices of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, as well as a narrated version on select performances throughout the season.

A Visit from St. Nicholas (’Twas the Night Before Christmas)
By Clement Clark Moore

’Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung by
the chimney with care,
in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
while visions of sugar plums danced in their heads.

And mama in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow
gave a luster of mid-day to objects below.
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
but a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
with a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his courses they came,
and he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name,

“Now Dasher! Now Dancer!
Now Prancer and Vixen!
On Comet! On Cupid!
On Donner and Blitzen!

To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall,
now, dash away, dash away, dash away all!”

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
when they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
so up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
with a sleigh full of toys – and St. Nicholas too.

And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof...
the prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
and his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
and he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes, how they twinkled! His dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
and the beard on his chin was as white as the snow.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
and the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
that shook when he laughed...

...like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
and I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
and filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk.
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
and giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight,

"Merry Christmas to All, and to All a Good Night!"

THE 2017 HOLIDAY POPS SEASON IN BRIEF
One of New England’s most popular Christmastime traditions, the 2017 Holiday Pops season, December 5—December 31, at festively decorated Symphony Hall, will feature the Boston Pops and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, under the direction of conductor Keith Lockhart. The season’s 40 programs will include the first performances of new holiday arrangements by David Chase and Rob Mathes, alongside performances of classic seasonal favorites cherished by audiences who make Holiday Pops an annual tradition. The 2017 Holiday Pops season also features six Kids Matinee concerts and the one-and-only Santa Claus, who makes a special appearance at all Holiday Pops programs through December 24.

As a post-Christmas treat for families and cartoon aficionados, the orchestra will perform Bugs Bunny with the Symphony II under the direction of George Daugherty during three concerts (12/29 & 12/30). The Boston Pops will also present the 34th annual A Company Christmas at Pops, the orchestra’s major holiday fundraiser (12/6), featuring The Midtown Men, and the Boston Pops Swing Orchestra will ring in the new year with bandleader Bo Winiker during a special New Year’s Eve Concert (12/31). Tickets for the 2017 Holiday Pops season, $33-$160, are on sale now and are available by visiting www.bostonpops.org or calling 888-266-1200.

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 40 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.

**TICKET INFORMATION FOR 2017 HOLIDAY POPS SEASON**

Tickets for the Boston Pops Holiday series range from $33 to $106 for regularly priced concerts; $40 to $147 for special priced concerts; and $42 to $160 for premium priced concerts. Tickets can be purchased by calling 888-266-1200 or visiting www.bostonpops.org. The Symphony Hall Box Office is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday. The Box Office remains open through intermission on performance nights. American Express, Visa, Discover, Diners Club, and cash are also accepted at the Box Office. There is a $6.50 per ticket handling fee for tickets ordered by phone or online. All Holiday Pops patrons, regardless of age, must have a ticket. Patrons with disabilities can access Symphony Hall through the Cohen Wing on Huntington Avenue and the Box Office entrance on Massachusetts Avenue. An access service center, accessible restrooms, and elevators are available inside this entrance. For ticket information, call the Disability Services Information Line at 617-638-9431 or TDD/TTY 617-638-9289.

**SPONSORSHIP**

The 2017 Holiday Pops Season is sponsored by Fidelity Investments®. For many years, Fidelity Investments® and the Boston Pops have proudly worked together to bring wonderful performances to local audiences. As our partnership grows, so does our investment in the community we both share. In 2009, the Young Artists Competition was created for high school students to compete for the opportunity to perform live at a Boston Pops concert in front of a live audience during a regular spring concert.

The Arbella Insurance Foundation is the official sponsor of the Kids Matinees. The concert on December 5 is sponsored by Fairmont Copley Plaza, the official hotel of the Boston Pops. The 8 p.m. concert on December 7 is sponsored by American Airlines, the official airline of the Boston Pops. The 8 p.m. concert on December 15 is sponsored by Commonwealth Worldwide Executive Transportation, the official chauffeured transportation provider of the Boston Pops.

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**2017 Boston Pops Holiday Series**

Tuesday, December 5, 8 p.m., *Sponsored by Fairmont Copley Plaza*
Thursday, December 7, 4 p.m.
Thursday, December 7, 8 p.m. *Sponsored by American Airlines*
Friday, December 8, 4 p.m.
Friday, December 8, 8 p.m.
Saturday, December 9, 11 a.m. (Kids Matinee)
    Saturday, December 9, 3 p.m.
    Saturday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 10, 11 a.m. (Kids Matinee)
    Sunday, December 10, 3 p.m.
    Sunday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.
    Tuesday, December 12, 4 p.m.
    Tuesday, December 12, 8 p.m.
    Wednesday, December 13, 4 p.m.
    Wednesday, December 13, 8 p.m.
    Thursday, December 14, 4 p.m.
    Thursday, December 14, 8 p.m.
    Friday, December 15, 4 p.m.
Friday, December 15, 8 p.m. Sponsored by Commonwealth Worldwide Chauffeured Transportation
    Saturday, December 16, 11 a.m. (Kids Matinee)
    Saturday, December 16, 3 p.m.
    Saturday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.
    Sunday, December 17, 11 a.m. (Kids Matinee)
    Sunday, December 17, 3 p.m.
    Sunday, December 17, 7:30 p.m.
    Monday, December 18, 8 p.m.
    Tuesday, December 19, 4 p.m.
    Tuesday, December 19, 8 p.m.
    Wednesday, December 20, 4 p.m.
    Wednesday, December 20, 8 p.m.
    Thursday, December 21, 4 p.m.
    Thursday, December 21, 8 p.m.
    Friday, December 22, 4 p.m.
    Friday, December 22, 8 p.m.
    Saturday, December 23, 11 a.m. (Kids Matinee)
    Saturday, December 23, 3 p.m.
    Saturday, December 23, 7:30 p.m.
    Sunday, December 24, 11 a.m. (Kids Matinee)
    Sunday, December 24, 3 p.m.

*Bugs Bunny at the Symphony II*
    Friday, December 29, 7 p.m.
    Saturday, December 30, 3 p.m.
    Saturday, December 30, 7 p.m.

*Boston Pops Films in Concert Series* support provided
by the George and Roberta Berry Supporting Organization
New Year’s Eve Concert
Sunday, December 31, 10 p.m.

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