KEITH LOCKHART AND THE BOSTON POPS
ANNOUNCE 2018 SPRING SEASON, MAY 9-JUNE 16; TICKETS GO ON SALE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, AT 10 A.M. AT 888-266-1200 AND WWW.BOSTONPOPS.ORG

THE 2018 BOSTON POPS SEASON TO CELEBRATE AMERICAN MUSIC ICON LEONARD BERNSTEIN IN THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH IN LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS; HIGHLIGHTS TO INCLUDE A CONCERT PERFORMANCE OF WEST SIDE STORY (6/15 & 16) AND A SEMI-STAGED PRODUCTION OF ON THE TOWN (5/31 & 6/1), BOTH FEATURING STARS OF THE BROADWAY STAGE, AS WELL AS FIVE LEONARD BERNSTEIN CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE CONCERTS WITH MUSIC FROM BERNSTEIN’S SCORES TO CANDIDE, WONDERFUL TOWN, AND FANCY FREE (5/11, 12, 17, 29, & 30)

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 134TH BOSTON POPS SEASON INCLUDE RETURN PERFORMANCES BY FOUR MAJOR STARS FROM THE WORLDS OF POP AND BROADWAY: AN OPENING NIGHT CONCERT AND PRESIDENTS AT POPS CORPORATE FUNDRAISER PERFORMANCE FEATURING POP SENSATION ANDY GRAMMER (5/9 & 10), A ROCK THE POPS PROGRAM HEADLINED BY BRITISH VOCAL SENSATION ALFIE BOE (5/15 & 16), A BROADWAY CELEBRATION WITH MUSICAL THEATER’S DYNAMIC SUTTON FOSTER (6/6 & 7), AND AN EVENING WITH HAMILTON STAR LESLIE ODOM, JR. (6/12, 13, & 14)
BOSTON POPS CONDUCTOR LAUREATE JOHN WILLIAMS RETURNS FOR JOHN WILLIAMS’ FILM NIGHT CONCERTS FEATURING HIS BELOVED HOLLYWOOD SCORES (5/23 & 24) AND MELINDA DOOLITTLE JOINS CONDUCTOR CHARLES FLOYD, THE BOSTON POPS, AND THE BOSTON POPS GOSPEL CHOIR FOR THE 26TH ANNUAL GOSPEL NIGHT PROGRAM (6/2)

BOSTON SYMPHONY YOUTH AND EDUCATION CONDUCTOR THOMAS WILKINS LEADS BEST OF THE BOSTON POPS WITH MUSIC BY BERNSTEIN, COPLAND, GERSHWIN, RODGERS, AND ELLINGTON, AS WELL AS THE POPS’ OWN JOHN WILLIAMS (5/22 & 25)

MAESTRO LOCKHART TO LEAD DISNEY’S BROADWAY HITS FEATURING SELECTIONS FROM ALAN MENKEN’S SCORES TO BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, THE LITTLE MERMAID, ALADDIN, AND NEWSIES AND ELTON JOHN’S AIDA AND THE LION KING (5/12 & 13); LOCKHART ALSO LEADS DANCE TO THE MOVIES CONCERTS FEATURING, STAR PERFORMERS FROM SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE, AMERICAN IDOL, AND THE VOICE (JUNE 9)

FOR DOWNLOADABLE PHOTOS AND BIOS OF SEASON GUEST ARTISTS, THE BOSTON POPS, AND KEITH LOCKHART, PLEASE CLICK HERE

OPENING NIGHT AT POPS AND THE ENTIRE 2018 BOSTON POPS SEASON ARE SPONSORED BY FIDELITY INVESTMENTS®

The 2018 Boston Pops spring season, May 9-June 16, under the direction of Keith Lockhart, will celebrate the centennial of Leonard Bernstein, one of the greatest international musical figures of the last century—an iconic American musician whose multidimensional talents spanning the worlds of composition, performance, education and conducting greatly influenced the culture at large throughout the mid- and late-20th century, resulting in a legacy that is sure to inspire music lovers far and wide for countless generations to come. The Boston Pops has an especially proud association with Leonard Bernstein, as he made his professional orchestra conducting debut leading the ensemble during a performance in the Hatch Shell on the Charles River Esplanade in 1941, on the cusp of establishing himself as one of the foremost musicians the country had ever seen.

The Boston Pops 2018 season celebration will spotlight Leonard Bernstein’s singular contributions as a multifaceted composer for orchestra, Broadway, and film, with a concert performance of West Side Story and a semi-staged performance of On The Town, both with star Broadway casts, along with a series of five Leonard Bernstein Centennial Tribute concerts featuring classic selections from Bernstein’s scores to Candide, Fancy Free, Wonderful Town, and On the Waterfront. The 2018 season opens on Wednesday, May 9, with a welcome return appearance by multi-platinum selling pop artist Andy Grammer, who made his highly acclaimed Boston Pops debut during the 2017 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular. Tickets to the 2018
Boston Pops season will go on sale on Monday, February 26, at 10 a.m., at 888-266-1200 or www.bostonpops.org.

In addition to the tribute to Leonard Bernstein, the 134th Boston Pops season—marking Julian and Eunice Cohen Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart’s 24th season—features a wide spectrum of programs that showcase an impressive breadth and versatility of musical genres for which “America’s Orchestra” is so well known. Additional highlights of the 2018 Boston Pops season include special performances by the highly acclaimed star of Hamilton, Leslie Odom, Jr. (6/12, 6/13 & 14); Rock the Pops with British vocal sensation Alfie Boe singing favorite songs of Pink Floyd, Queen, The Who, the Rolling Stones, and Led Zeppelin (5/15 & 16); and Sutton Foster’s return to the Boston Pops stage for A Broadway Celebration with Sutton Foster (6/6 & 7). The June 6 concert will also feature the winners of the Fidelity Investments Young Artists Competition.

Keith Lockhart also leads a dynamic cinema-themed Dance to the Movies program that will feature TV and film star Lesley Ann Warren along with acclaimed performers from Dancing with the Stars, So You Think You Can Dance, American Idol, and The Voice (6/9), and Disney’s Broadway Hits, featuring Disney’s own world-class Broadway singers performing songs from nine Tony- and Academy Award-winning scores including Alan Menken’s Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid, and Aladdin; Elton John’s Aida and The Lion King, and Richard and Robert Sherman / George Styles & Anthony Drewe’s Mary Poppins, among others (5/12 & 13). In addition, the hugely popular John Williams’ Film Night returns with George and Roberta Berry Boston Pops Conductor Laureate John Williams joined on the podium by Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins for the first time (5/23 & 24); Mr. Wilkins will also lead two concerts celebrating the Best of the Boston Pops (5/22 & 25). Conductor Charles Floyd leads the 26th annual Gospel Night performance, featuring vocalist Melinda Doolittle and the Boston Pops Gospel Choir (6/2).

The 2018 Boston Pops season will also present four 3 p.m. matinee family concerts (5/12, & 13 and 6/9 & 16), with a 50% discount for young patrons 17 and under. Additional initiatives include a choose-your-own subscription option and a 15% discount for groups of 25 or more. Details about the 2018 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular will be announced later this spring. Tickets to the 2018 Boston Pops season will go on sale on Monday, February 26, at 10 a.m., at 888-266-1200 or www.bostonpops.org.

BOSTON POPS FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR
The 2018 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular will mark its 45th year as one of the nation’s proudest holiday traditions, which draws approximately 500,000 people to the Hatch Shell on Boston’s Charles River Esplanade every summer. Details about the 2018 Fourth-of July concert and fireworks show will be announced in the spring. Eaton Vance, a leading global asset manager based in Boston, is the presenting sponsor of the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular and Bloomberg, the global business and financial information and news leader, is a major sponsor and media partner; both companies made initial three-year commitments to the event last year.

**LEONARD BERNSTEIN’S ASSOCIATION WITH THE BOSTON POPS**

Born on August 25, 1918, Leonard Bernstein, a towering artistic figure of the 20th century, first set foot in Symphony Hall at age 14 in the spring of 1932 to attend a Boston Pops concert with his father; the program featured Arthur Fiedler conducting including Ravel’s Bolero and Rossini’s The Barber of Seville, among other selections. Bernstein later made his professional conducting debut on July 11, 1941, leading the Boston Pops in a concert in the Hatch Shell on the Charles River Esplanade as a result of a contest held by the Boston Herald. Sharing the podium with Arthur Fiedler, famed Boston Pops Conductor from 1930 to 1979, he led the orchestra in Wagner’s Prelude to “Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg.” It was an auspicious event in the life of the young Leonard Bernstein, who would go on to step in at the last minute to lead the New York Philharmonic for an ailing Bruno Walter in 1943, and take on the title of music director of the ensemble in 1958, among a multitude of other major accomplishments throughout his life as a musician.

Leonard Bernstein’s association with the Boston Pops also includes an appearance in 1944 leading a spring Pops program at Symphony Hall and doubling as piano soloist for Ravel’s Piano Concerto in G. In August 1955, Bernstein appeared as a piano soloist with the Boston Pops under the direction of Arthur Fiedler in a performance of George Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue. In 1964, he shared conducting duties with Arthur Fiedler for the 25th reunion concert for the Harvard Class of 1939’s “Night at the Pops,” returning to the podium 20 years later to take on the conducting duties for the “Harvard Night at Pops” program in conjunction with his 50th class reunion in 1989.

The Boston Pops has recorded music by Leonard Bernstein on 13 different albums from an Arthur Fielder recording featuring the Overture from Candide and selections from Bernstein’s Mass in 1976 to a Keith Lockhart recording of “Times Square: 1944” from On the Town in 1997. Among the highlights is a 1981 Boston Pops album, Bernstein by Boston, recorded under the baton of Boston Pops Conductor Laureate John Williams.

Leonard Bernstein was also closely associated with the Boston Symphony, especially through his near annual appearances at Tanglewood from 1940 until 1990. Bernstein’s close relationship with the Boston Symphony Orchestra—from the time he became a protégé of legendary BSO Conductor and Tanglewood founder Serge Koussevitzky as a member of the first Tanglewood Music Center class in 1940, until the final concerts he ever conducted before his passing, which were with the BSO and Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra at Tanglewood in the summer of 1990—solidified his place as one of the key figures in the BSO’s storied history. The spring Pops season is part of a year-long worldwide celebration of the
centennial of Leonard Bernstein’s birth, which includes the 2018 Tanglewood season, entitled Bernstein Centennial Summer—Celebrating Lenny at Tanglewood, and a celebration of the incomparable maestro during the BSO’s 2017-18 season at Symphony Hall in Boston.


Tickets to the 2018 Boston Pops season will go on sale on Monday, February 26, at 10 a.m., at 888-266-1200 or www.bostonpops.org.

QUOTE FROM KEITH LOCKHART, JULIAN AND EUNICE COHEN BOSTON POPS CONDUCTOR

“All of us at the Boston Pops are thrilled to be part of the worldwide centennial celebration of Leonard Bernstein, one of the most remarkable and influential cultural figures in this country’s history.

Since the Boston Pops—with its moniker of ‘America’s Orchestra’—is renowned for its wide-ranging repertoire and its beautiful ability to convey the essence of a great array of musical genres and styles, I can’t think of a more perfect ensemble to bring out the very best in Bernstein’s most popular and beloved works, including West Side Story, On the Town, Candide, and Fancy Free. It is a delight and a privilege for me to create a season-long exploration of this wonderful music with our amazing musicians and audiences and revel in the extraordinary genius of Leonard Bernstein.

Bernstein’s passion for music was so all-consuming and his image so ubiquitous that it is fair to say he influenced every American musician of my generation. We were all swept along, and all wanted to be, well, just like him. Bernstein was the first home-grown conductor to be taken seriously on a world stage, and we young conductors looked to him as proof that it was, indeed, possible for an American to climb to the top ranks of the field.

Beyond our Bernstein celebration, no Boston Pops season would be complete without an appearance by our own musical legend, Conductor Laureate John Williams, who will share the Film Night podium with Thomas Wilkins for performances that are always greatly anticipated by our audiences. We are also extraordinarily pleased that Charles Floyd returns to lead the 26th annual Gospel Night performance with the inimitable Boston Pops Gospel Choir and guest artist Melinda Doolittle.

In addition, an amazing lineup of guest artists including Andy Grammer, Leslie Odom, Jr., Alfie Boe, Sutton Foster, and many other current stars of the Broadway stage, will help play a central role in making the 2018 Boston Pops season one to remember and cherish for a long time to come. I hope music lovers near and far will join us for a season that celebrates both Leonard Bernstein’s musical genius and many of the most extraordinary artists of our own time.”

For downloadable photos and bios of the season guest artists, the Boston Pops, and Keith Lockhart, please click here. For additional photos, videos, and engaging Boston Pops media, follow the orchestra on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.
OVERVIEW AND CALENDAR OF 2018 BOSTON POPS SEASON

Opening Night at Pops with Andy Grammer
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Andy Grammer, special guest
Wednesday, May 9, 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 10, 8 p.m. Presidents at Pops

The 2018 Boston Pops season kicks off on Wednesday, May 9 with multi-platinum-selling pop artist Andy Grammer for a Keith Lockhart-led concert. Known for such anthemic hits as “Keep Your Head Up,” “Honey, I’m Good,” and “Fresh Eyes,” Mr. Grammer is the first male pop star in a decade (since John Mayer) to reach the Top 10 on Adult Pop Radio on his first two singles. He’s also becoming a regular performer with the Pops: the singer headlined the 2017 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular and will perform again as a solo act at Tanglewood on Friday, June 22. In addition to his Opening Night performance, Mr. Grammer will be a featured guest during the annual Presidents at Pops fundraiser on Wednesday, May 10.

Leonard Bernstein Centennial Tribute
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Matthew Anderson, Teresa Blume, Aimee Doherty, David McFerrin, and Andrew Tighe, vocalists
Friday, May 11, 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 12, 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 17, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, May 29, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, May 30, 8 p.m.

The Boston Pops, under the direction of conductor Keith Lockhart, will present five concerts featuring Leonard Bernstein’s compositions as part of a season-long tribute to the centennial of this great American musical icon. These programs draw from across his decades of compositions and his deep collaboration with the Boston Symphony, Tanglewood, and the Boston Pops from his beginnings as the protégé of BSO Music Director Serge Koussevitzky in 1940 until the last concerts of his career at Tanglewood in 1990. The Leonard Bernstein Centennial Tribute programs will kick off with Bernstein’s brassy Overture to Candide before launching into the composer’s fast-paced Three Dances from the ballet Fancy Free. The program will also showcase music from Bernstein’s classic musicals On the Town and Wonderful Town. Post intermission, audiences will be treated to the “Mambo,” “One Hand, One Heart,” and “Tonight” from West Side Story. The cast of performers includes local singers Matthew Anderson, Teresa Blume, Aimee Doherty, David McFerrin, and Andrew Tighe.
**Disney’s Broadway Hits**  
Keith Lockhart, conductor  
Ashley Brown, Josh Strickland, Alton Fitzgerald White, and Merle Dandridge, vocalists  
Saturday, May 12, 3 p.m.  
Sunday, May 13, 3 p.m.

The Boston Pops and Keith Lockhart will partner with Disney on May 12 and 13 to perform music from the company’s theatrical productions that have taken the Great White Way by storm over the past few decades. The concerts will feature Broadway stars Ashley Brown, Josh Strickland, Alton Fitzgerald White, and Merle Dandridge in songs from nine Tony- and Academy Award-winning scores by some of the greatest composers and lyricists in the world, including Alan Menken (Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid, Aladdin, Newsies, The Hunchback of Notre Dame), Phil Collins (Tarzan), Elton John and Tim Rice (Aida, The Lion King), and Richard & Robert Sherman and George Styles & Anthony Drewe (Mary Poppins). The 3 p.m. matinee performance on Sunday, May 13, includes a 50% off ticket discount for kids 17 and under.

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**Rock the Pops with Alfie Boe**  
Keith Lockhart, conductor  
Alfie Boe, special guest  
Tuesday, May 15, 8 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 16, 8 p.m.

English vocalist Alfie Boe will take the Boston Pops stage with Keith Lockhart on May 15 and 16 for concerts entitled Rock the Pops with Alfie Boe. One of world’s top tenors, Alfie possesses a vocal range that is well-suited to everything from a Broadway ballad to an operatic aria, entertaining audiences through his tour and concert stage appearances and in his roles in such films as Jean Valjean in Les Misérables in Concert: The 25th Anniversary. Rock the Pops with Alfie Boe will feature the acclaimed vocalist in orchestral renditions of rock classics from the ‘70s and ‘80s including favorite hits songs by Pink Floyd, Queen, The Who, the Rolling Stones, and Led Zeppelin. Mr. Boe, who has a long history with the Boston Pops, was featured on the Pops 2006 album Sleigh Ride, on a tour to Japan with the orchestra, and featured with the orchestra during Pete Townshend’s Classic Quadrophenia at Tanglewood in 2017. In 2017, the singer released an UK chart-topping album, Together Again, in collaboration with singer Michael Ball.

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**John Williams’ Film Night**  
John Williams, conductor  
Thomas Wilkins, conductor
On May 23 and 24 the incomparable John Williams returns to the Pops stage to lead John Williams’ Film Night, one of the most treasured annual Pops traditions since 1997. Sure to be a highlight of the season, Boston Pops Conductor Laureate John Williams will lead the orchestra in some of his recent music including excerpts from his new score to Star Wars: The Last Jedi. The concert will also feature some of the most memorable movie music and film clips of all time, among them several iconic movie themes by Williams himself—including a performance of “With Malice Toward None” from Lincoln, the theme from Jurassic Park, and music from Superman, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, and War Horse. The concert opens with the composer’s energizing “Olympic Fanfare and Theme.” Mr. Williams will be joined on the podium for the first time by BSO Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins.

The Best of the Boston Pops
Thomas Wilkins, conductor
Tuesday, May 22 8 p.m. (Arthur Fiedler Night)
Friday, May 25, 8 p.m.

Since establishing the Pops genre in 1885, the year of the orchestra’s founding, the Boston Pops has cultivated an impressive library of music reflecting over a century of America’s wide-ranging musical tastes. “The Best of the Boston Pops” draws from the 3,400 titles in the orchestra’s library including music prepared by some of the best arrangers and composers from every generation since the orchestra’s founding. This vast collection includes everything from Beatles medleys, college fight songs, American songbook classics, film music, Broadway scores for full orchestra, Jazz standards, full-length symphonies, sing-alongs for every occasion, contemporary Pop hits, as well as original works commissioned for the one and only Boston Pops Orchestra. The full range of this broad repertoire will be on display on May 22 and 25 for “The Best of the Boston Pops” concerts under the energetic leadership of the BSO’s Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins. Look forward to music by Bernstein, Copland, Rodgers, swinging favorites by Ellington and Gershwin (including a performance of Rhapsody in Blue), rock classics from Queen, and the soaring film music of Boston Pops Conductor Laureate John Williams.

On The Town
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Kathleen Marshall, director and choreographer
David Chase, music director
Thursday, May 31, 8 p.m.
Friday, June 1, 8 p.m.
As part of the season-long tribute to Leonard Bernstein, the Boston Pops presents a semi-staged performance of the composer’s 1945 musical romance *On the Town* on May 31 and June 1. **Keith Lockhart** leads the performance with Tony Award-winning Broadway director and choreographer **Kathleen Marshall** at the helm of the stage presentation, which will feature a cast of Broadway singers and dancers. Longtime Boston Pops arranger **David Chase**—known for his wildly popular arrangement of “The Twelve Days of Christmas”—also lends a hand as music director for the program. *On the Town* was an offshoot of Bernstein’s collaboration with choreographer **Jerome Robbins** on the 1944 ballet *Fancy Free*, for which Bernstein also wrote the music. The musical, which features such instantly recognizable songs as “New York, New York” follows the whirlwind romances of three sailors and their respective love interests over the sailors 24-hour shore leave in New York City.

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**Gospel Night**  
Charles Floyd, conductor  
Melinda Doolittle, vocalist  
Saturday, June 2, 8 p.m.

On June 2, the Boston Pops and the **Boston Pops Gospel Choir** will present the 26th annual Gospel Night concert, under the direction of conductor/pianist/composer **Charles Floyd**, who has led the annual performance since 1994. The program will feature Boston Pops favorite and American Idol finalist **Melinda Doolittle**, who joins Maestro Floyd and the Choir for the performance. The concert will also feature a tribute to the late Edwin Hawkins, who passed away earlier this year. The concert will include a performance of his groundbreaking hit, "Oh Happy Day," which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2019.

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**A Broadway Celebration with Sutton Foster**  
Keith Lockhart, conductor  
Sutton Foster, special guest  
Wednesday, June 6, 8 p.m.  
Thursday, June 7, 8 p.m.

Tony award-winning Broadway star **Sutton Foster**, who was elevated from Broadway chorus girl to playing the lead in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, is now one of Broadway’s most versatile singers, having originated roles in seven Broadway shows, including *Anything Goes*, *Little Women*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Shrek*. The Broadway star made her Boston Pops debut in 2015 and her popularity has continued to grow in the years since the success of her TV Land dramedy *Younger*, in which she shares the screen with Hilary Duff. Ms. Foster will perform many of the Broadway hits for which she is best known, among them “Gimme Gimme” from *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and “I Get a
Kick Out of You” from Anything Goes. For a glimpse into Sutton Foster’s theatrical accomplishments read the reviews of Younger in the New York Times and The New Yorker. The June 6 concert will also feature the winners of the Fidelity Investments Young Artists Competition. Now in its tenth year, the Fidelity Investments Young Artists Competition provides talented Massachusetts high school students the chance to perform with the Boston Pops on June 6, 2018. For more information or to apply, click here. The application deadline is March 23.

Dance to the Movies
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Saturday, June 9, 3 p.m.
Saturday, June 9, 8 p.m.

The Boston Pops will partner with choreographers and professional dancers from Dancing with the Stars and So You Think You Can Dance as well as top finalists from American Idol and The Voice for Dance to the Movies on June 9. This Keith Lockhart-led program will feature Film and television legend Lesley Ann Warren, joining Keith Lockhart and a cast of professional dancers for performances celebrating the magic of dance in cinema. Among the program highlights are new interpretations of memorable dance routines from the films Grease, Chicago, Singin’ In the Rain, Moulin Rouge, and West Side Story. Film and television legend Lesley Ann Warren joins Keith Lockhart and the cast of dancers for the performance. The 3 p.m. matinee concert on Saturday, June 9, includes 50% off tickets for kids aged 17 and younger.

An Evening with Leslie Odom, Jr.
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Leslie Odom, Jr., special guest
Tuesday, June 12 8 p.m.
Wednesday, June 13, 8 p.m.
Thursday, June 14, 8 p.m.

Leslie Odom, Jr., best-known for originating the Tony-winning role of Aaron Burr in the original cast of Broadway’s Hamilton, and for his role in the TV series Smash, is a triple-threat performer with a #1 hit album on the Billboard Jazz chart. After debuting with the Boston Pops in spring 2017 and performing on the orchestra’s 2017 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular, he’ll be back on the Pops stage June 12-14. Leslie Odom Jr.’s first book “Failing Up: How to Take Risks, Aim Higher, and Never Stop Learning,” is expected to come out in March 2018. The book will explore the career setbacks he faced before finally landing his career-defining role in Hamilton.

West Side Story in Concert
Keith Lockhart, conductor
The Boston Pops 2018 spring season concludes with a concert presentation of Leonard Bernstein’s electrifying musical *West Side Story*. A New York City retelling of *Romeo and Juliet*, *West Side Story* was the result of a collaboration between Leonard Bernstein, Jerome Robbins, and Stephen Sondheim—three of reigning artistic geniuses of the 20th century. Opening on Broadway in 1957, the original run of the beloved story of Maria and Tony, the Sharks and the Jets, lasted for 732 New York performances before going on tour. The film adaptation released four years later was a critical and popular success, winning ten Academy Awards, including Best Picture. This concert production will include a cast of Broadway singers, including Ali Ewoldt, Matthew Hydzik, and Natalie Cortez performing such timeless hits as “Tonight,” “Maria,” “I Feel Pretty,” and “America.” This production is directed/produced by Chad Hilligus.

BOSTON POPS AT TANGLEWOOD AND ON THE CAPE
The Boston Pops will perform five times as part of the 2018 Tanglewood season, June 15-September 2, including the season’s inaugural concert on Friday, June 15. Roger Daltrey features with the Boston Pops to perform *The Who’s Tommy* (6/15). The following week Audra McDonald will join forces with the orchestra to perform hits from Sondheim, Rodgers, and Gershwin as well as contemporary musical theater hits (6/24). The orchestra also reprises its semi-staged performance of Leonard Bernstein’s *On the Town* with the help of Broadway director Kathleen Marshall, longtime Boston Pops collaborator David Chase as music director, and a cast of noted Broadway performers (7/7). Of course, the Boston Pops will also be on hand for the annual Tanglewood on Parade performance (8/7) as well as the annual John Williams Film Night featuring both Maestro Williams and BSO Music Director Andris Nelsons on the podium (8/11). The Boston Pops also performs its annual concerts on Nantucket in support of the Nantucket Cottage Hospital (8/11) and in Hyannis in support of the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod (8/12).

BOSTON POPS ON THE RADIO AND FREE MUSIC LOOP AT WWW.BOSTONPOPS.ORG
For Boston Pops fans who can’t make it to Symphony Hall for a concert, the Boston Pops will offer a free music stream of favorite Pops repertoire, available during the Pops season at www.bostonpops.org. In addition, select Boston Pops programs are slated for broadcast on 99.5 WCRB-FM, with additional details to be announced at a later date.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE BOSTON POPS
Affectionately known as “America's Orchestra,” the Boston Pops, founded in 1885, 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 (1930-1979) and continuing through the innovations introduced by John Williams (1980-1993) and the new-millennium Pops spearheaded by Keith Lockhart (1995-present). Having led over 1,900 Boston Pops concerts, Keith Lockhart marks his twenty-fourth season as Boston Pops Conductor in 2018. The Boston Pops season takes place in the festive atmosphere of world-famous Symphony Hall, where 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. The 2018 Boston Pops season, May 9-June 16, under the direction of conductor Keith Lockhart, presents a wide spectrum of musical styles, representing both timeless favorites from the orchestra’s 133-year
tradition of music-making and new programming directions that feature current pop culture trends designed to appeal to both the orchestra’s treasured loyal audiences and newcomers to the Boston Pops experience. The Boston Pops library is home to 3,400 titles—music prepared by some of the best arrangers and composers from every generation since the orchestra’s founding 133 years ago. This vast collection, includes everything from Beatles medleys, college fight songs, American songbook classics, film music, and Broadway scores for full orchestra, to jazz standards, full-length symphonies, sing-alongs for every occasion, and contemporary pop hits, as well as original works commissioned especially for the one and only Boston Pops Orchestra. The Boston Pops and Keith Lockhart also present a Holiday Pops series each year throughout the month of December and several concerts at Tanglewood, the Boston Symphony Orchestra's summer home in Lenox and Stockbridge, MA; the orchestra also presents annual national tours and a series of performances throughout New England. For a complete history of the Boston Pops please click here.

TICKET AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION
Tickets for the 2018 Boston Pops season at Symphony Hall, priced from $30 to $150, go on sale on Monday, February 26, at www.bostonpops.org or 888-266-1200. All performances start at 8 p.m., except for the matinee performances of Disney’s Broadway Hits on Saturday, May 12 and Sunday, May 13; Dance to the Movies on Saturday, June 9; and West Side Story in Concert on Sunday, June 16. The 3 p.m. matinees include a 50% ticket discount for children aged 17 and younger. Groups of 20 or more receive 15% off regular ticket prices and waived handling fees. Please call the Group Sales Office at 800-933-4255 for these details.

In general, tickets may be purchased online at www.bostonpops.org or by phone through SymphonyCharge at 617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (with a $6.50 handling fee for each ticket ordered online or by phone). Tickets may also be purchased in person at the Symphony Hall box office, open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday when there is a concert at Symphony Hall. Most major credit cards and cash are accepted at the box office. For group sales of 25 or more, please call 617-638-9345 or 800-933-4255.

The Boston Symphony has a dedicated line for disabled patrons who would like to purchase tickets to BSO, Boston Pops, or Tanglewood concerts, or who need information about disability services at Symphony Hall or Tanglewood. This line can be reached by dialing 617-638-9431. For access via TDD/TTY, please call 617-638-9289. Patrons with disabilities can access Symphony Hall through the Cohen Wing on Huntington Avenue or through the Massachusetts Avenue entrance.

Ticket packages to Presidents at Pops, the BSO’s exclusive spring corporate gala on Wednesday, May 10, start at $5,500 and include floor and balcony tickets with a sponsor page in the evening’s commemorative program book. Lead Sponsorships are available from $25,000 to $75,000, and include premium seating; full-color sponsor pages; sponsorship of children at Days in the Arts at Tanglewood (DARTS); the BSO’s summer arts immersion camp in the Berkshires; membership in the BSO Business Partner, as well as recognition at the event and throughout the Pops season. For more information about Presidents at Pops contact Mary Thomson at mthomson@bso.org or 617-638-9278.

SPONSORSHIP
Opening Night at Pops and the entire 2018 Boston Pops season are sponsored by Fidelity Investments®. The Leonard Bernstein Centennial Tribute concerts (May 11, 12, 17, 29, and 30) are sponsored by Arbella Insurance Foundation. The May 23 concert is sponsored by Fairmont Copley Plaza, Official Hotel
of the Boston Pops. Commonwealth Worldwide Executive Transportation is the Official Chauffeured
Transportation Provider of the Boston Pops American Airlines is the Official Airline of the Boston Pops.

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