KEITH LOCKHART AND THE BOSTON POPS CELEBRATE THE CENTENNIAL OF LEONARD BERNSTEIN’S BIRTH THROUGHOUT THE 2018 SPRING POPS SEASON WITH THREE FULL PROGRAMS DEDICATED TO BERNSTEIN’S WORKS

MAY 31 AND JUNE 1: THE POPS PRESENT A SEMI-STAGED PRODUCTION OF ON THE TOWN DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY KATHLEEN MARSHALL WITH MUSIC DIRECTOR DAVID CHASE, FEATURING A STAR-STUDDED CAST, INCLUDING BRANDON VICTOR DIXON, ANDY KARL, MEGAN LAWRENCE, LAURA OSNES, GEORGINA PAZCOGUIN, CHRISTIAN DANTE WHITE, MARC KUDISCH, AND ANDREA MARTIN

JUNE 15 & 16: KEITH LOCKHART LEADS CONCERT PERFORMANCES OF WEST SIDE STORY FEATURING ALI EWOLDT, ROSS LEKITES, NATALIE CORTEZ, GERMAN ALEXANDER, AND JOHN ARTHUR GREENE

MAY 11, 12, 17, 29, & 30: THE LEONARD BERNSTEIN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FEATURES MUSIC FROM BERNSTEIN’S SCORES TO CANDIDE, A WONDERFUL TOWN, AND FANCY FREE

THE 2018 BOSTON POPS SEASON, MAY 9-JUNE 16, CELEBRATES AMERICAN MUSIC ICON LEONARD BERNSTEIN IN THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH IN LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS; CLICK HERE FOR THE COMPLETE 2018 SPRING POPS SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

For downloadable photos and artist bios, click here; for press tickets, email nbanks@bso.org or call 617-638-9283
The 2018 Boston Pops spring season, May 9-June 16, under the direction of Keith Lockhart, celebrates 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 spotlights Leonard Bernstein’s singular contributions as a multifaceted composer for orchestra, Broadway, and film, with concert performances of West Side Story (June 15 & 16), and a semi-staged performance of On The Town (May 31 & June 1), 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 (May 11, 12, 17, 29, & 30).

The Boston Pops will also perform Bernstein’s music on programs throughout the 2018 season, including the opening night program with Andy Grammer (May 9), Best of the Boston Pops with Thomas Wilkins (May 22 & 25), A Broadway Celebration with Sutton Foster (June 6 & 7), and An Evening with Leslie Odom, Jr. (June 12-14).

**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.

For a detailed history of Bernstein’s relationship with the Boston Pops, BSO, Tanglewood, visit celebratebernstein.org. More information about the Leonard Bernstein Centennial is available at WCRB-FM’s bernstein.classical.org and leonardbernstein.com.

Tickets for all Boston Pops spring season concerts are available for purchase at 888-266-1200 and www.bostonpops.org.

PROGRAM DETAILS FOR LEONARD BERNSTEIN CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE, ON THE TOWN, AND WEST SIDE STORY IN CONCERT

Leonard Bernstein Centennial Tribute
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Matthew Anderson, baritone; Teresa Winner Blume, lyric coloratura; Aimee Doherty, actor/singer;
   David McFerrin, baritone; and Andrew Tighe, baritone
Paula Plum, stage director
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 Winner Blume, Aimee Doherty, David McFerrin, and Andrew Tighe.
On The Town
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Kathleen Marshall, director and choreographer
David Chase, music director
Brandon Victor Dixon, Gabey; Andy Karl, Ozzie; Megan Lawrence, Hildy; Laura Osnes, Claire;
   Georgina Pazcoguin, Ivy; Christian Dante White, Chip
   with Marc Kudisch, Pitkin/First Workman
   and Andrea Martin, Madame Dilly
Ensemble: Kim Faure, Robert Hartwell, Anne Horak, Kevin Munhall, Jeffrey Schecter, Eric Sciotto, Erica Sweany, and Megan Sicora
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 including Brandon Victor Dixon as Gabey; Andy Karl as Ozzie; Megan Lawrence as Hildy; Laura Osnes as Claire; Georgina Pazcoguin as Ivy; and Christian Dante White as Chip; with Marc Kudisch as Pitkin/First Workman and Andrea Martin as Madame Dilly. 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.

West Side Story in Concert
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Ali Ewoldt (Maria), Ross Lekites (Tony), Natalie Cortez (Anita), John Arthur Greene (Riff), Mikey Winslow (Action), Christopher Rice (Baby John), Alex Ringler (Diesel), Ryan Ghysels (A-rab), Clay Thomson (Snowboy), Maya Post (Rosalia/A Girl), Kat Nejat (Consuelo), Alexandra Blake Redelico (Francisca), German Alexander (Bernardo), Jeffrey C. Sousa (Pepe), Will Lebow (Doc/Officer Krupke), and Dean Andre de Luna (Chino)
Friday, June 15, 8 p.m.
Saturday, June 16, 3 p.m.
Saturday, June 16, 8 p.m.

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 as Maria, Ross Lekites as Tony, Natalie Cortez as Anita, German Alexander as Bernardo, and John Arthur Greene as Riff, performing such timeless hits as “Tonight,” “Maria,” “I Feel Pretty,” and “America.” This production is directed/produced by Chad Hilligus.

**BOSTON POPS SPRING SEASON OVERVIEW**

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.

In addition to the tribute to Leonard Bernstein, the 134th Boston Pops season—marking 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 & 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 *Boston Pops Conductor Laureate John Williams* joined on the podium by *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. **Tickets to the 2018 Boston Pops season are on sale now at 888-266-1200 or www.bostonpops.org.**

**TICKET AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION**

Tickets for the 2018 Boston Pops season at Symphony Hall, priced from $30 to $150, are on sale now 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 Thursday, 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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**PRESS CONTACT:**

Bernadette Horgan, Director of Public Relations (bhorgan@bso.org) 617-638-9285

Taryn Lott, Assistant Director of Public Relations (tlott@bso.org) 617-638-9283
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