FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Thursday, May 10, 2018

BOSTON POPS CONDUCTOR LAUREATE JOHN WILLIAMS returns to the Symphony Hall podium on Wednesday, May 23, and Thursday, May 24, for the ever-popular John Williams’ Film Night—an annual tradition since 1997—featuring Mr. Williams’ beloved Hollywood scores. Mr. Williams and BSO Youth & Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins share the podium for the two sold-out concerts, which will include music from Indiana Jones, E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, Jurassic Park, Star Wars, and more.

On Tuesday, May 22, and Friday, May 25, Thomas Wilkins leads the Boston Pops in two concerts celebrating the Best of the Boston Pops. The programs include music by Copland and Gershwin, as well as music from John Williams’ score to Raiders of the Lost Ark and a cinematic sing-along arranged by composer Don Sebesky. As part of Arthur Fiedler night on Tuesday, May 22, the legendary conductor
returns to Symphony Hall in the form of the skillfully sculpted Dreamland Wax Museum’s own figure of the beloved Maestro, which will be on display in Symphony Hall that evening.

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

### PROGRAM DETAILS FOR JOHN WILLIAMS’ FILM NIGHT AND THE BEST OF THE BOSTON POPS, MAY 22-25

**John Williams’ Film Night**
John Williams, conductor  
Thomas Wilkins, conductor  
*Wednesday, May 23, 8 p.m.*  
*Thursday, May 24, 8 p.m.*

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.

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**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. The program, which opens with Bernstein’s Overture to *Candide*, also features Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* (with pianist Ya-Fei Chuang), selections from John Williams’s score to *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, music from Bernstein’s *West Side Story* and *On the Town*, a cinematic sing-along arranged for the Boston Pops by composer Don Sebesky, and more.
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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