FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Wednesday, September 12, 2018

THE BOSTON POPS PRESENTS A FREE CONCERT IN FRANKLIN PARK,
SEPTEMBER 30, 2018, LED BY BOSTON POPS CONDUCTOR KEITH LOCKHART
AND BSO YOUTH & FAMILY CONCERTS CONDUCTOR THOMAS WILKINS

THE BOSTON POPS RETURNS TO FRANKLIN PARK FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN
A ROW AFTER THE ORCHESTRA’S FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT WITH THE
BSO IN OCTOBER 2017

THE PERFORMANCE, PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF BOSTON,
WILL BE PRECEDED BY A PRE-CONCERT FESTIVAL FEATURING MUSICAL
DEMONSTRATIONS, ART EXHIBITS, CRAFTS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

On Sunday, September 30, at 3 p.m. the Boston Pops, in partnership with the City of Boston, will present a special free concert in Boston’s Franklin Park. Led by Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart and Boston Symphony Orchestra Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins, this performance marks the second straight year that the Pops have performed in Franklin Park. The concert takes place at the park’s Playstead (25 Pierpont Road, Dorchester) and will be preceded by a community arts festival featuring family-friendly activities presented by local institutions and arts organizations.

Prior to last year’s performance with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops performed in Franklin Park twice before—in 2000 under the direction of Keith Lockhart, and in 1968 with Arthur Fiedler.

Details of Boston Pops’ September 30 Franklin Park Program
Keith Lockhart leads the Boston Pops in the first half of the concert on Sunday, September 30, at 3 p.m., beginning with the National Anthem. In celebration of the centennial of Leonard Bernstein’s birth, Mr.
Lockhart will lead a selection of works from some of Leonard Bernstein’s best-known scores including the Overture to Candide, Simple Song from Mass, and Mambo from West Side Story, as well as “Bernstein on Broadway,” an arrangement of some of his most recognizable Broadway tunes. These selections are performed as part of the BSO and the Boston Pops’ year-long celebration of the legendary Boston-raised musician, whose childhood elementary school was a mere two blocks from Franklin Park. Mr. Lockhart and the Orchestra will then be joined in the first movement of Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto in E minor by violinist Isabel Chin from Project STEP—String Training Education Program, a program supported by the BSO and devoted to giving access to string training to students of color.

BSO Youth and Family Concerts Conductor Thomas Wilkins then takes the stage, leading the orchestra in Puerto Rican composer Roberto Sierra’s Timba from his Symphony No. 3 and Ary Barroso’s famous song Brazil, arranged by Jorge Calandrelli and featuring drumming group Grooversity. The Boston Pops will then celebrate the genius of Duke Ellington, performing Giggling Rapids from The River Suite; “Come Sunday”; and “It Don’t Mean a Thing (If It Ain’t Got That Swing)”. The program will include a tribute to Aretha Franklin, who passed away this August, featuring vocalist Gabrielle Goodman. The concert will close with performances from members of the Boston Pops Gospel Choir including “Oh Happy Day” performed in memory of Rev. Edwin Hawkins.

A Pre-Concert Festival before Boston Pops’ Franklin Park Concert, 1-3 p.m.
A pre-concert festival from 1-3 p.m. before the Boston Pops’ Franklin Park concert, featuring Boston Pops arts partners from Jamaica Plain and Roxbury, among other neighborhoods, will offer free events and activities designed for families and visitors of all ages. Local ensembles to be featured onstage prior to the concert include Kotoko Brass and Clave and Blues. Inspired by the traditional drum rhythms of Ghana, Kotoko Brass performs a unique, joyful and improvisational style of West African dance music. Clave and Blues will present their authentic Cuban sound mixed with salsa, jazz, Latin Jazz and other contemporary influences.

Additionally, Artists For Humanity will be creating a live “interactive” painting to celebrate the concert; all concert-goers are invited to be co-creators of this project. Franklin Park Coalition will bring their Kit of Parks, a self-contained kit of parts to build a park designed to serve under-programmed public spaces and provide experimental fun to kids of all ages. Boston Children’s Museum will feature their Imagination Playground intended to encourage children to unlock their imagination and creativity while building social skills, problem-solving skills, and confidence. Emerald Necklace will feature Fujiko Nakaya’s highly acclaimed Fog Sculpture. Franklin Park Zoo will feature live animals and kids activities, as well as offering 50% off admission until 6 p.m. The Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra and Boston Symphony Association of Volunteers will host an instrument playground. In addition, members of the BSO in Residence in Jamaica Plain will host a drumming circle and other family-friendly activities throughout the pre-concert festival. Vendors from Commonwealth Kitchen will offer specialty gourmet items for sale and local food trucks will be on site at the event.

WHDH 7 News and Hot 96.9 are the media partners for the Boston Pops’ Franklin Park concert on September 30.

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FRANKLIN PARK CONCERT LISTING: BOSTON POPS WITH CONDUCTORS KEITH LOCKHART AND THOMAS WILKINS

Sunday, September 30, 3 p.m., Franklin Park
Boston Pops Orchestra
Keith Lockhart, Boston Pops Conductor
Thomas Wilkins, BSO Youth and Family Concerts Conductor

Keith Lockhart conducting:
SMITH The Star-Spangled Banner
BERNSTEIN Overture to Candide
BERNSTEIN Simple Song from Mass
BERNSTEIN Mambo from West Side Story
BERNSTEIN Bernstein on Broadway
MENDELSSOHN Violin Concerto in E minor, 1st movement
Isabel Chin, Project STEP soloist

Thomas Wilkins conducting:
SIERRA Timbao, from Symphony No. 3
BARROSO-CALANDRELLI Brazil
Grooversity, percussion
ELLINGTON Giggling Rapids, from The River Suite
ELLINGTON Come Sunday
ELLINGTON It Don’t Mean a Thing (If It Ain’t Got That Swing)
A Tribute to Aretha Franklin
Boston Pops Gospel Choir