CONDUCTOR KEITH LOCKHART AND THE BOSTON POPS OPEN 2019 SPRING POPS SEASON WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, AT 8 P.M. WITH LEGENDARY STAGE AND SCREEN STAR BERNADETTE PETERS

NASA ASTRONAUT AND NEEDHAM NATIVE SUNITA L. WILLIAMS ALSO JOINS THE POPS ON OPENING NIGHT TO NARRATE THE BOSTON PREMIERE OF JAMES BECKEL’S FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON AND BEYOND, A NEW MULTIMEDIA WORK CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING; ASTRONAUT DR. MAE C. JEMISON NARRATES THE PIECE ON MAY 15 & 16


MAY 15 & 16: AMERICAN FOLK SINGER-SONGWRITER ARLO GUTHRIE HEADLINES A PROGRAM DEDICATED TO THE SUMMER OF ‘69, CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOODSTOCK AND THE APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING

Click here for complete details of the 2019 Spring Pops season, May 8-June 15; For downloadable photos and artist bios, click here; for press tickets, email ecotten@bso.org or call 617-638-9287

OPENING NIGHT AT POPS AND THE ENTIRE 2019 BOSTON POPS SEASON ARE SPONSORED BY FIDELITY INVESTMENTS

On Wednesday, May 8, conductor Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops kick off the 2019 Spring Pops Season—May 8-June 15—with a performance featuring legendary stage and screen star Bernadette Peters. NASA astronaut, retired United States Navy officer, and Needham native Sunita L. Williams also joins the Pops for the opening night performance to narrate the Boston premiere of From the Earth to the
Moon and Beyond, a new work by Pulitzer Prize-nominated composer James Beckel celebrating the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. Both Ms. Peters and Capt. Williams will be featured guests during the annual Presidents at Pops fundraiser the next evening on Thursday, May 9.

The Boston Pops 2019 season continues Saturday, May 10, Sunday, May 11, and Tuesday, May 14 with a special film presentation of the original Star Wars: A New Hope (1977) with John Williams’ Academy Award®-winning score, performed in full by Maestro Lockhart and the Boston Pops. On Wednesday, May 15 and Thursday, May 16, musical icon, songwriter, storyteller, and singer Arlo Guthrie joins the Boston Pops for Summer of ’69, a program commemorating the 50th anniversary of Woodstock and the Apollo 11 moon landing.

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

PROGRAM DETAILS FOR OPENING NIGHT WITH BERNADETTE PETERS, STAR WARS: A NEW HOPE, AND SUMMER OF ’69 WITH ARLO GUTHRIE

Opening Night at Pops with Bernadette Peters
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Bernadette Peters, special guest
Sunita L. Williams, narrator

Wednesday, May 8, 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 9, 8 p.m. Presidents at Pops

Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops kick off the 2019 Spring Pops season on Wednesday, May 8, with Broadway and film legend Bernadette Peters. One of the most popular guests to appear with the Pops over the years, Ms. Peters—who last performed with the Pops at Symphony Hall in 2015—will perform a selection of beloved songs from Broadway and the great American Songbook. In addition to her Opening Night performance, Ms. Peters will be a featured guest during the annual Presidents at Pops fundraiser on Thursday, May 9.

The Opening Night program also features a tribute to the “Summer of ’69,” a year of unprecedented scientific exploration, social upheaval, and musical excitement, highlighted by two important cultural moments: Woodstock and the Apollo 11 moon landing. A highlight of this tribute is the Boston premiere of From the Earth to the Moon and Beyond, a new work by Pulitzer Prize-nominated composer James Beckel celebrating the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. NASA astronaut, United States Navy officer, and Needham native Sunita L. Williams narrates this multimedia piece that includes visuals by Brannon Fells and Beckel that focus on the wonders of space and the Moon, Earth from space, and pictures that exemplify humans’ desire for exploration and reaching the unknown. The concert begins with the opening fanfare from Strauss’ Also Sprach Zarathustra (famously used in the film 2001: A Space Odyssey). Then the Pops performs “Daybreak” from Ravel’s Daphnis and Chloé, accompanied by a new film produced by Susan Dangel and Dick Bartlett featuring photography of the moon over Boston by award-winning photographer Babak Tafreshi. Keith Lockhart also leads the orchestra in music from John Williams’ score to the 1995 Oliver Stone film Nixon, as well as popular music from 1969: David Bowie’s “Space Oddity”—released just two weeks before the Apollo 11 moon landing—and the Who’s Overture and “Pinball Wizard” from Tommy.
All audience members will receive a complimentary drink voucher on May 8 in celebration of the start of the Spring Pops season.

**Star Wars: A New Hope**
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Friday, May 10, 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 11, 3 and 8 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14, 8 p.m.

The Boston Pops has been at the forefront of the recent popular practice of performing film music alongside a screening of beloved Hollywood classics. *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977) with John Williams’ iconic score follows in the vein of recent Boston Pops performances of *Jaws, Back to the Future, Raiders of the Lost Ark, The Wizard of Oz,* and *Singin’ in the Rain.*

Set 30 years after *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace, Star Wars: A New Hope,* the fourth episode of the saga, returns to the desert planet of Tatooine. A young Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) begins to discover his destiny when, searching for a lost droid, he is saved by reclusive Jedi Obi-Wan Kenobi (Alec Guinness). As civil war rages in the galaxy, and Rebel forces struggle against the evil Galactic Empire, Luke and Obi-Wan enlist the aid of hotshot pilot Han Solo (Harrison Ford). Joined by the quirky droid duo R2-D2 and C-3PO, the unlikely team sets out to rescue Rebel leader Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) and make use of the stolen plans to destroy the Empire’s ultimate weapon. In a legendary confrontation, the rogue group mounts an attack against the Death Star for a climactic battle with the evil Sith Lord Darth Vader.

**Summer of ’69**
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Arlo Guthrie, special guest
Dr. Mae C. Jemison, narrator
Wednesday, May 15, 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 16, 8 p.m.

Living legend, songwriter, storyteller, and singer Arlo Guthrie joins Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of Woodstock, one of the most iconic and influential festivals in the history of music, as well as two of 1969’s most groundbreaking albums: the Beatles’ *Abbey Road* and the Who’s rock opera masterpiece, *Tommy.* The concert also observes the tumult and excitement of the time with a Jimi Hendrix-inspired Star-Spangled Banner; James Beckel’s From the Earth to the Moon and Beyond, with narration from the first black woman in space, Dr. Mae C. Jemison; David Bowie’s “Space Oddity” (released two weeks before the Apollo 11 landing); and John Williams’ music from the 1995 Oliver Stone film *Nixon.*

**BOSTON POPS SPRING SEASON OVERVIEW**
Opening Night of the 2019 Boston Pops spring season—Wednesday, May 8—heralds the much-anticipated Boston Pops return of Bernadette Peters, legendary star of stage and screen, and is the first of ten eclectic programs that Keith Lockhart leads from the Symphony Hall stage. The upcoming season, which runs through June 15, also boasts an impressive lineup of Boston Pops debuts, including special
appearances by actress and comedian Jane Lynch, travel guru Rick Steves, and Grammy and MacArthur “Genius Grant” winner Rhiannon Giddens who curates and performs in an electrifying four-concert survey of overlooked African American composers (5/22-25). These special debuts take place alongside concerts showcasing returning popular artists and classic Boston Pops programming, including appearances by Arlo Guthrie (5/15 & 16), Leslie Odom, Jr. (6/5 & 6), Cirque de la Symphonie (6/8), a screening of Star Wars: A New Hope accompanied by the Pops (5/10, 11 & 14), and the return of the Boston Pops’ Gospel Night spectacular featuring gospel legend Dottie Peoples (6/15).

In addition to the family-friendly Cirque de la Symphonie program and John Williams Film Night Tributes (5/29 & 30), families with young children can attend Once Upon a Time…, which takes listeners on a variety of odysseys; both Saturday matinees (5/25 and 6/1) include selections by musical storytellers, as well as The Composer is Dead, music by Nathaniel Stookey with text by Lemony Snicket, a contemporary whodunit that has quickly become a children’s classic. The performance on June 1 is a Boston Pops first: a sensory-friendly concert designed for patrons on the autism spectrum with sensory sensitivities. For this modified program, Symphony Hall will be a welcoming space offering lower volume and lighting levels, relaxed house rules, minimal crowds to allow for movement, available noise-reduction headphones, designated quiet room and support spaces, modified food concessions, and staff and credentialed autism therapist volunteers trained to be responsive to families’ needs.

The 134th Boston Pops season—encompassing a wide spectrum of concerts that showcase a remarkable breadth and versatility of musical genres for which “America’s Orchestra” is universally recognized—takes place in the festive atmosphere of world-famous Symphony Hall, where patrons can sit at cabaret-style tables and order food and drink with family and friends during performances. Tickets to the 2019 Boston Pops season are available at 888-266-1200 or www.bostonpops.org.

TICKET AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION
Tickets for the 2019 Boston Pops season at Symphony Hall, priced from $30 to $126, are on sale at www.bostonpops.org or 888-266-1200. All performances start at 8 p.m., except for the matinee performances of Star Wars: A New Hope on Saturday, May 11, and Tuesday, May 14; Once Upon a Time… on Saturday, May 25, and Saturday, June 1; and Cirque de la Symphonie on Saturday, June 8. The May 11 & 25 and June 8 concerts include a 50% ticket discount for children ages 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 9, start at $5,500 and include floor and balcony tickets; the pre-concert cocktail reception; gourmet boxed dinners; the Keith Lockhart-led concert featuring special guest Bernadette Peters; and a sponsor page in the evening’s commemorative program book. Lead Sponsorships are available from $15,000 to $75,000 and include premium seating, a black-and-white or full-color sponsor pages, recognition at the event and throughout the Pops season, and may include sponsorship of children at Days in the Arts at Tanglewood (DARTS), the BSO’s summer arts immersion camp in the Berkshires, and membership in the BSO Business Partner. 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 2019 Boston Pops season are sponsored by Fidelity Investments. The *Jane Lynch Sings the American Songbook* concerts are sponsored by Arbella Insurance Foundation. The June 6 program 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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**BOSTON POPS PROGRAM LISTINGS – MAY 8-16**

**Wednesday, May 8, 8 p.m.**  
*Opening Night at Pops*  
Keith Lockhart, conductor  
Bernadette Peters, soloist  
NASA Astronaut Sunita L Williams, special guest

**Thursday, May 9, 8 p.m.**  
*Presidents at Pops*  
Keith Lockhart, conductor  
Bernadette Peters, soloist  
NASA Astronaut Sunita L Williams, special guest

**Friday, May 10, 8 p.m.**  
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*Star Wars: A New Hope*  
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