CONDUCTOR KEITH LOCKHART LEADS THE BOSTON POPS IN ITS FIRST-EVER SENSORY-FRIENDLY CONCERT, ONCE UPON A TIME..., ON SATURDAY, JUNE 1 AT 11 A.M.

DESIGNED FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN OR ADULTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER OR SENSORY SENSITIVITIES, THE 75-MINUTE ONCE UPON A TIME... PROGRAM INCLUDES FILM SCORES BY JOHN WILLIAMS AND THE CHILDREN’S STORY THE COMPOSER IS DEAD, WITH MUSIC BY NATHANIEL STOOKEY AND TEXT BY LEMONY SNICKET

SYMPHONY HALL MODIFICATIONS INCLUDE LOWER VOLUME AND LIGHTING LEVELS, RELAXED HOUSE RULES, DESIGNATED SUPPORT SPACES, AND AUTISM THERAPIST VOLUNTEERS ON SITE

YOUTH 17 AND UNDER RECEIVE A 50% DISCOUNT ON TICKETS

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

THE 2019 BOSTON POPS SEASON IS SPONSORED BY FIDELITY INVESTMENTS

The Boston Pops Orchestra and conductor Keith Lockhart are pleased to offer the Pops’ first-ever sensory and autism-friendly concert, the family-story matinee Once Upon a Time... on Saturday, June 1 at 11 a.m. at Boston’s Symphony Hall. Featuring children’s stories set to music, the June Once Upon a Time... program is an important step forward in the Pops’ mission to diversify its audience and include members of the community who may not feel comfortable attending Symphony Hall performances.
“We look forward to giving a wholehearted welcome to music fans from the autism and sensory-sensitivity communities with our first Boston Pops sensory-friendly concert tailored especially for a multi-generational audience,” says Keith Lockhart, the Julian and Eunice Cohen Boston Pops conductor. “This concert has been years in the making, and we hope to replicate the same success that other cities and performing arts institutions have experienced with sensory-friendly programming and hope to create more such programs in the future.”

Among the works that Maestro Lockhart will lead the Boston Pops Orchestra are film music selections by Boston Pops conductor emeritus John Williams (Harry Potter, E.T., Star Wars) and the new multimedia work From the Earth to the Moon and Beyond by Pulitzer Prize-nominated composer Jim Beckel, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. The concert concludes with The Composer is Dead, music by Nathaniel Stookey and text by famed children’s book author Lemony Snicket (Series of Unfortunate Events), a madcap whodunit about an inspector who sifts through an entire orchestra of suspicious instruments to solve the crime. Veteran Boston-based actor Jeremiah Kissel serves as the matinee’s narrator.

While this performance retains the identical programming as the Pops’ May 25 Once Upon a Time... matinee, modifications have been made to Symphony Hall to create a more welcoming environment. They include 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 credentialed autism therapist volunteers trained to be responsive to families’ needs. The Once Upon a Time... sensory-friendly program will last 75 minutes and there will be no intermission.

The Boston Pops has teamed with several organizations and consultants to make this concert a reality. Partners include the Theater Development Fund’s National Autism Friendly Performance Training Program, Autism Speaks New England, Juvo Behavioral Health of Massachusetts, and the Autism/Asperger Network of New England. Advisory assistance has been provided by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, a leader in presenting sensory-friendly orchestra concerts, and Charles Baldwin, program officer at the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

“It is our great pleasure and privilege to help support children, adults, and families impacted by autism and other sensory sensitivities in accessing one of the amazing, long-standing, and rich musical and cultural experiences that Boston has to offer,” says Dena Shade-Monuteaux, executive director and senior behavior analyst at Juvo Behavioral Health of Massachusetts. “We feel fortunate to be involved with the Boston Pops on this inclusive and forward-thinking musical adventure!”

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a general term used for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by challenges with social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication, sensory sensitivities, and repetitive behaviors. Autism affects an estimated 1 out of 59 children in the U.S. today. Research has shown that early intervention and Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) are effective methods in managing autism. Once Upon a Time... is intended for anyone with sensory sensitivities or developmental, cognitive, and physical disabilities.
Special thanks for this program goes to corporate sponsor Celebrity Cruises, the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation, and the TDF National Autism Friendly Performance Training Program for serving as advisors. More information about Once Upon a Time..., including a Q&A for prospective attendees, is on the Pops’ [website](http://www.bostonpops.org).

Tickets for all Boston Pops spring season concerts are available for purchase at 888-266-1200 and [www.bostonpops.org](http://www.bostonpops.org).

**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 her own music and that 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 or 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](http://www.bostonpops.org).

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for the 2019 Boston Pops season at Symphony Hall, priced from $30 to $126, are on sale at [www.bostonpops.org](http://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, June 1 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](http://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.

**ABOUT CELEBRITY CRUISES**

Celebrity Cruises is proud to sponsor Boston Pops’ inaugural sensory-friendly concert on June 1. Celebrity Cruises offers a welcoming autism-friendly environment onboard its cruise ships. This includes sensory-friendly films and toys, dietary menu options, and overall autism-friendly training for Fun Factory staff. In addition, Youth Staff have received autism awareness training which covers the following topics: characteristics of autism and developmental disabilities, and communication tactics, such as person-first language and terms, and skills to initiate a conversation with a parent about his or her child's needs. For more information, click [here](#).

**ABOUT THE NANCY LURIE MARKS FAMILY FOUNDATION**

The Nancy Lurie Marks (NLM) Family Foundation is pleased to support Boston Pops’ first-ever autism-friendly concert. The Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation is a private foundation in Wellesley, Mass. that seeks to help individuals with autism lead fulfilling and rewarding lives. The NLM Family Foundation advances the scientific understanding of autism, funds educational and social opportunities for individuals with autism across the lifespan, and educates society about autism. For more information about the NLM Foundation, click [here](#).
PRESS CONTACT:
Bernadette Horgan, Director of Public Relations (bhorgan@bso.org) 617-638-9285
Matthew Erikson, Senior Publicist (merikson@bso.org) 617-638-9284

BOSTON POPS PROGRAM LISTING – JUNE 1

Once Upon a Time... Family Story Matinee
Sensory-Friendly Concert
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Jeremiah Kissel, narrator
Saturday, June 1, 11 a.m.