



BOSTON

POPS

BOSTON POPS FACT SHEET

BOSTON POPS LEADERSHIP

Keith Lockhart, Conductor
John Williams, Laureate Conductor
Edward H. Linde, Chairman
Mark Volpe, Managing Director

DATE FOUNDED

Members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra first performed a summer program of light music in a café-style setting on July 11, 1885, under the direction of Adolf Neuendorff. The event was known as a Promenade Concert. The term “Pops” was first officially used during the 1900 season; the term “Boston Pops Orchestra” was first used in July 1935 for the ensemble’s debut recording sessions under Arthur Fiedler.

CONCERT FORMAT

The Boston Pops introduced Americans to the now widespread tradition of the café-style concert, in which the audience sits at tables and is served from a menu of light refreshments while listening to the music. The Boston Pops also introduced a three-part program format that has been widely imitated: an opening section of light classical music, a middle section featuring a classical or popular soloist, and a conclusion featuring music such as Broadway show tunes, film music, hits from the big band era, and patriotic favorites.

ENSEMBLES

The Boston Pops Orchestra – which consists of the members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, minus 11 of the principals who tour as the Boston Symphony Chamber Players – performs in Symphony Hall from May through mid-June. The orchestra also performs a consistently sold-out Holiday Pops series.

ENSEMBLES

The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra – which consists of freelance musicians from Boston, organized by the management of the Boston Symphony Orchestra – performs in Symphony Hall from mid-June through early-July, plays free outdoor concerts at the Hatch Shell on the Charles River Esplanade during July (including the annual Fourth of July celebration), tours regularly throughout the United

2-2-2-2-2 BOSTON POPS FACT SHEET

States, and performs Holiday Pops concerts and a New Year's Eve gala.

ESPLANADE CONCERTS

The Esplanade concerts were inaugurated in 1929 by Arthur Fiedler, one year before he became Conductor of the Boston Pops. The annual Fourth of July concert was inaugurated in 1976, when 400,000 people attended as part of the Bicentennial celebration – according to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, the largest audience in history for an orchestra concert. That record has since been broken twice, first in 1998 and again in 2003, when more than a half-million people attended that year's concert.

ANNUAL ATTENDANCE

200,000 at Symphony Hall; 600,000 at the Charles River Esplanade; 300,000 on tour and at other concert venues in New England and across the country.

RECORDINGS

Acknowledged to be the most-recorded orchestra in the world, the Boston Pops Orchestra currently has a discography of more than 100 recordings on the RCA Victor, Philips, and Sony Classical labels, ranging from a seven-CD compilation of Arthur Fiedler's performances entitled *100 Fiedler Favorites* on RCA Victor to Keith Lockhart and the orchestra's new patriotic album *America* – the orchestra's second ever self-produced and -distributed recording, released in June 2005 on Boston Pops Recordings. John Williams also continues to record with the orchestra on Sony Classical.

Keith Lockhart made his Boston Pops recording debut with the release in 1996 of *Runnin' Wild: The Boston Pops Orchestra plays Glenn Miller*, the first of a four-year six-album contract with RCA Victor. Subsequent albums on RCA Victor included *American Visions*, *The Celtic Album* (earning the Pops its first-ever Grammy nomination in 1999), *Holiday Pops*, *A Splash of Pops*, *Encore!* (a compilation album released in March 2000), *The Latin Album* (nominated for a 2001 Latin Grammy), and *My Favorite Things – A Richard Rodgers Celebration*. The Boston Pops released *Sleigh Ride*, its first-ever self-produced and -distributed CD, in 2004; *America*, a collection of patriotic favorites, in 2005; *Oscar and Tony*, a collection of favorites from the Broadway stage and Hollywood screen, in 2007; and *The Red Sox Album*, a tribute "America's Favorite Pastime," in April 2009.

BROADCASTS

Evening at Pops, a co-production of WGBH-TV in Boston and the BSO, has been broadcast nationally on PBS since 1969 and attracts a cumulative audience of nearly 40 million viewers each season. The annual Fourth of July concert from the Charles River Esplanade has been broadcast nationally on television since 1990,

3-3-3-3 BOSTON POPS FACT SHEET

BROADCASTS first on A&E Television (1990-2002) and starting in 2003 on CBS Television as the *Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular*. Live local radio broadcasts of the Boston Pops began in 1952; weekly broadcasts of Pops concerts were syndicated nationally from 1962 until 1992.

TOURS The Boston Pops and Boston Pops Esplanade orchestras have performed in 43 of the contiguous United States, plus Hawaii and the District of Columbia. During John Williams' tenure, the orchestra performed in concerts at the White House and the Lincoln Memorial as part of the Pops' centennial celebration in 1985, and the BPEO performed at the Statue of Liberty on the occasion of the monument's rededication in 1986. Mr. Williams also undertook three tours of Japan.

Since his appointment in February 1995, Keith Lockhart has led the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra on 33 tours of the United States, and made two Carnegie Hall appearances with the Boston Pops Orchestra. Mr. Lockhart made his first overseas tour with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra to Japan and Korea in June 1997, and returned to Asia in July 2001, 2002, and 2003 for concerts in Tokyo, Osaka, and Seoul. In February 2002, Mr. Lockhart and the Boston Pops made history by becoming the first orchestra to be featured entertainment at a Super Bowl, performing a selection of patriotic favorites, including the National Anthem with guest vocalist Mariah Carey, during the Super Bowl XXXVI Pregame Show. In February 2004, he led the orchestra in its first concert at the famed Radio City Music Hall since the Fiedler era, featuring Broadway star Linda Eder as special guest. Mr. Lockhart and the orchestra appeared live on national television with Sir Elton John during the NFL Season Kickoff special prior to the first game of the 2004 NFL season at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Mass., in September 2004.

In addition to formal tours, the Boston Pops also has numerous engagements year round throughout New England and annual summer appearances at Tanglewood.

GUEST ARTISTS Among the soloists who have appeared with the Boston Pops are Ben Affleck, Jason Alexander, Kathleen Battle, Tony Bennett, George Benson, Big & Rich, Mariah Carey, Johnny Cash, Ray Charles, Kristin Chenoweth, Rosemary Clooney, Natalie Cole, Harry Connick Jr., Linda Eder, Roberta Flack, James Galway, Crystal Gayle, Vince Gill, Amy Grant, Josh Groban, Thomas Hampson, Whitney Houston, Al Jarreau, Elton John, Patti LaBelle, Nathan Lane, k.d. lang, Yo-Yo Ma, Barry Manilow, Branford Marsalis, Wynton Marsalis, John Mayer, Martina McBride, Audra McDonald, Reba McEntire, Don McLean, the Mark Morris Dance Group,

4-4-4-4 BOSTON POPS FACT SHEET

Aaron Neville, Jessye Norman, Elaine Paige, Mandy Patinkin, Penn & Teller, Itzhak Perlman, Oscar Peterson, John Pizzarelli, The Pointer Sisters, Bonnie Raitt, Lou Rawls, LeAnn Rimes, Max Roach, Professor Peter Schickele, Doc Severinsen, Isaac Stern, Sting, Jubilant Sykes, James Taylor, Kiri Te Kanawa, Mel Tormé, Stephen Tyler, Dawn Upshaw, Shirley Verrett, Frederica von Stade, Hayley Westenra, Vanessa Williams, and Trisha Yearwood.

COMMISSIONS

Compositions commissioned and premiered by the Boston Pops include *The Neville Feast* by Christopher Rouse (2003), *Convergence: Concerto for Pops Orchestra* by Christopher Brubeck (2001), *With Voices Raised* by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, creators of the hit Broadway musical *Ragtime* (1999), *Spumante* by Dan Welcher (Keith Lockhart's first commission as Boston Pops Conductor, 1998), *Promenade Overture* by John Corigliano (a Boston Symphony Orchestra Centennial Commission); *Ragomania: A Classic Festival Overture* by William Bolcom; *1712 Overture* by P.D.Q. Bach (a Boston Pops Centennial Research Commission, with introductory remarks by Professor Peter Schickele); *An Orkney Wedding, with Sunrise* by Peter Maxwell Davies (a Boston Pops Centennial Commission); *Overture to a Pops Concert* by Henry Mancini (a Boston Pops Centennial Commission); *Boston Overture* by William Thomas McKinley; *freeflight* by Joseph Schwantner; *Vintage Renaissance* by William Kraft; and *Interplay* by Christopher Brubeck (commissioned for the *Evening at Pops* "Fiddlers Three" broadcast, winner of an ASCAP Deems Taylor Award, 2002).

World premieres composed by John Williams that have been performed at Boston Pops concerts are *The Cowboys Overture*, *The Reivers*, *Jubilee 350 Fanfare*, *Pops on the March (to Arthur Fiedler)*, *Olympic Fanfare and Theme* (commissioned by the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee), *Concerto for Tuba and Orchestra* (soloist Chester Schmitz), *Liberty Fanfare* (commissioned by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.), "Hymn to New England," from *New England Time Capsule* (composed for the Mugar Omni Theater at the Museum of Science), *We're Lookin' Good!* (composed for the Special Olympics in celebration of the 1987 International Summer Games), *Celebrate Discovery!* (written for the 500th anniversary of the voyage of Columbus), and *Summon the Heroes* (written for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics). This season, the Pops will perform the world premiere of Williams's *Concerto for Viola and Orchestra*, with Pops' principal violist Cathy Basrak as soloist.

In addition, countless arrangements of popular, film, and Broadway music have been commissioned by the Boston Pops over the years, making the Boston Pops library one of the most extensive orchestral collections in the world.