

BOSTON  
POPS





For 125 years, the Boston Pops has been attracting large and diverse audiences to their concerts, and sending them away with a tune they can hum. What began in 1885 as an ensemble playing a modest series of Promenade Concerts has grown into the most recorded and arguably the most beloved orchestra in the country, renowned for an ingenious and engaging blend of light classics and popular contemporary fare. A signature combination of tradition and innovation has earned the orchestra the moniker “America’s Orchestra,” and through live concerts, recordings, television, and special events, the Pops reaches millions of music lovers each year. The Pops’ 125th anniversary season celebrated the orchestra’s extraordinary legacy through the distinctive contributions of its three most influential conductors—Arthur Fiedler, John Williams, and Keith Lockhart. Fidelity Investments was once again the sponsor for the entire 2009-10 Pops season.



**ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT:**

Amanda Palmer performs with the Boston Pops on New Year's Eve.

Santa visits conductor Keith Lockhart during Holiday Pops.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:**

Keith Lockhart conducts the Boston Pops with special guest, Doc Severinsen.

Dave Brubeck and Bobby Militello perform with the Pops.

Kelli O'Hara sings Cole Porter.

## Holiday Pops

One of Boston's most cherished traditions is Holiday Pops, which combines seasonal favorites with spirited storytelling and a highly anticipated visit from Santa. The orchestra launched ticket sales for the 2009 Holiday Pops with the release of one of its most popular new holiday pieces, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," arranged by David Chase. After a flood of letters and phone calls requesting a recording of the show-stopper, the Pops released the arrangement as a digital download at [bso.org](http://bso.org) and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Conductor Keith Lockhart and members of the Pops also made their annual visit to Children's Hospital, where they performed a special concert for scores of young patients, brightening their day with holiday cheer. Provocative indie cabaret queen Amanda Palmer of the Dresden Dolls helped the Pops culminate the holiday season and ring in 2010 with a special New Year's Eve celebration at Symphony Hall.

## FIDELITY INVESTMENTS HELPS YOUNG MUSICIANS PLAY WITH THE POPS



In spring of 2010, and for the second consecutive year, Fidelity Investments, in association with the Boston Pops, conducted a citywide competition giving Boston and Cambridge public high school musicians and vocalists the opportunity to perform on stage with the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall. The 2010 competition was expanded to include Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston, and was launched with a four-city simulcast hosted by Academy Award®-winning actor Jamie Foxx and connecting more than 1,500 high school students via satellite.

In Boston, the four winning acts represented a wide cross section of musical styles spanning jazz, pop, bluegrass, and Chinese folk: Charlie Brown Blues Band from Boston

Arts Academy, which featured Gregory Groover, Jr. on tenor saxophone, Gustavo Hernandez on percussion, Nicolas Perez on piano, and Max Ridley on upright bass; vocalist LaWanda Hector from Roland Hayes School of Music; Boston Latin School's Copley Place, with Ian Haines on banjo, Christopher Nguyen on cello, and Annie Osborn and Sherry Lily Wu on violin; and Muhan Zang of Boston Latin School on the erhu.



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## Spring Into Summer

The Pops began its official 125th anniversary celebration with a May Day event at the Prudential Center and a gala season opener May 4 sponsored by Fidelity Investments, featuring Tony Award-winner Idina Menzel and the inimitable Doc Severinsen, who holds the distinction of having performed under the batons of the Pops’ three most famous conductors—Arthur Fiedler, John Williams, and Keith Lockhart. Food Network “Ace of Cakes” star Duff Goldman also stopped in to deliver a birthday cake for the Pops

### POPS PREMIERES *THE DREAM LIVES ON: A PORTRAIT OF THE KENNEDY BROTHERS*



*The Dream Lives On: A Portrait of the Kennedy Brothers*, a new commission from Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops by composer Peter Boyer and lyricist Lynn Ahrens and made possible by the generous support of Paul and Catherine Braverman and Robert and Evelyn Doran, premiered at Symphony Hall on May 18, 2010. Acclaimed actors Robert De Niro, Ed Harris, Morgan Freeman, and Cherry Jones breathed life into the words of John, Robert, and Edward Kennedy. The moving piece drew a sellout crowd to Symphony Hall for the premiere and was repeated for another full house as

part of the *Presidents at Pops* event on the following evening. The work was also televised in its entirety on WCVB-TV’s *Chronicle*, and a live recording was released on CD and digital download at the BSO’s Digital Music Store.



**ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT:**

Keith Lockhart leads the Boston Pops featuring singer-songwriter Ben Folds.

Craig Ferguson and Toby Keith join in the July 4 patriotic song-along.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:**

Violinist Daniel Bernard Roumain performs with the Boston Pops.

Robert De Niro speaks the words of John F. Kennedy in *The Dream Lives On: A Portrait of the Kennedy Brothers*.

## Collaborative Triumphs

The Pops celebrated their quasiquintennial season with a dazzling array of guest artists. The orchestra commissioned award-winning composer Peter Boyer and lyricist Lynn Ahrens to create a fitting tribute to another set of American icons, the Kennedy brothers. The Pops premiered *The Dream Lives On: A Portrait of the Kennedy Brothers* at Symphony Hall on May 18 with Robert De Niro, Ed Harris, Morgan Freeman, and Cherry Jones bringing the moving words of the Kennedy brothers to life against the stirring orchestral score. Superstar Toby Keith joined the orchestra for the annual “Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular,” the nation’s premiere Independence Day celebration. Hosted by Craig Ferguson, the July 4 event drew more than 500,000 people to the Hatch Shell and was broadcast live on the CBS Television Network to another 6.7 million viewers. Ben Folds, solo artist and frontman/pianist of Ben Folds Five, joined the Pops in October for a sold-out Symphony Hall concert also featuring the opening act Family of the Year, a folk band chosen for the honor from among 650 entries in an initiative created in partnership with Sonicbids.com. In December 2009, the Pops was nominated for three Grammy Awards for its recording *Chris Botti – In Boston*. The Pops also teamed up with Haitian-born violinist and composer Daniel Bernard Roumain for its first-ever education initiative, which brought Roumain, Keith Lockhart, and members of the Pops directly into classrooms at local schools for in-person musical demonstrations.



## POPS MARK 125TH ANNIVERSARY WITH DONOR-SUPPORTED PROGRAMS



ABOVE: The BSO brass quintet performs at the Prudential Center.

The Boston Pops celebrated its 125th anniversary in grand style in 2009–10, and an array of loyal benefactors brought plenty of presents to the party. Throughout the anniversary year, several donor-supported initiatives and events helped honor the Pops' esteemed place in musical history.

To commemorate 125 years of the orchestra's American musical legacy, the Mugar Foundation supported the creation of the Pops documentary, "America's Orchestra: Celebrating 125 Years of the Boston Pops." The film, which aired on PBS TV stations across the country, is a star-packed testimonial to the Pops, complete with archival and current performance footage, and interviews with past and present collaborators and conductors.

The Pops' musical and cultural timeline was also vividly recreated with an installation of nine archival panels throughout Symphony Hall. Supported by Overseer Emerita Joan P. Curhan and Ronald C. Curhan, the fascinating displays traced Pops history by way of items culled from the BSO's archives, including photos, letters, concert programs, artifacts, and music.

The Pops took to the road to bring its beloved music to the public with its Pops in the Park! series. Supported by Bicon Dental Implants and Implant Dentistry Centre and in partnership with the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, the Boston Pops Brass Quintet offered three free concerts in some of the area's most beautiful parks including Pinebank at Jamaica Pond and Allerton Overlook at Olmsted Park. The series also included a Boston Pops Swing Orchestra performance on City Hall Plaza conducted by Bill Elliott and generously underwritten by the New Balance Foundation as part of Boston Mayor Thomas Menino's Wednesday Night Concert Series.

The Pops also reached out to a host of current young performers for a special collaboration with NPR's "From the Top" program. The radio taping at Symphony Hall, which was supported by Pamela Kunkemueller, showcased six young composers and performers, ranging in age from 9 to 17, displaying their virtuosity in a variety of new and traditional works.

To groom the next generation of musicians and music lovers, Conductor Keith Lockhart and celebrated composer and violinist Daniel Bernard Roumain toured three area schools to present a program of interactive, educational performances with musicians from the Boston Pops. Supported by Natixis Global Asset Management through the courtesy of John T. Hailer, the program forged connections between music and the lives of today's students.

The year of Pops celebrations culminated with the 125th Anniversary Pops Concert on the Common, a free public concert presented in cooperation with the Boston Parks and Recreation Department featuring Conductor Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops, which was underwritten by Fidelity Investments with additional support provided by the New England Cadillac Dealers. Showcasing a cross-section of the Pops' most popular and beloved pieces, the performance drew thousands to help the Pops cap off its gala, year-long anniversary celebration—and to kick off the next 125 years for "America's Orchestra."