KEITH LOCKHART LEADS BOSTON POPS IN “VISIONS OF AMERICA PHOTO SYMPHONY,” A MULTIMEDIA WORK FEATURING AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHY OF JOSEPH SOHM ALONGSIDE MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT BY THE BOSTON POPS AND THE WORLD PREMIERE OF THREE NEW SONGS WITH LYRICS BY ALAN AND MARILYN BERGMAN AND MUSIC BY ROGER KELLAWAY (MAY 22 & 26)

“CITY OF CHAMPIONS” SPORTS-THEMED CONCERTS, MAY 23-25, FEATURE NARRATION BY PATRIOTS LEGEND ANDRE TIPPETT; SYMPHONY HALL TO TAKE ON SPORTS ATMOSPHERE WITH HOT DOG STANDS, FENWAY-STYLE POPCORN, A T-SHIRT CANNON BLASTING BOSTON POPS GEAR INTO THE CROWDS, AND FENWAY ORGANIST PERFORMING ENERGIZING ORGAN INTERLUDES BETWEEN POPS SETS (MAY 23-25)

DROPKICK MURPHYS TO MAKE THEIR BOSTON POPS DEBUT ON “RED SOX NIGHT,” MAY 24, ALONG WITH SPECIAL CAMEO APPEARANCES BY THE TEAM’S MASCOT WALLY AND TO-BE-ANNOUNCED RED SOX PERSONALITIES (MAY 24)

FAMED VOCALIST MAUREEN MCGOVERN JOINS THE BOSTON POPS TO PERFORM MUSIC FROM BROADWAY’S LITTLE WOMEN, PAYING HOMAGE TO LOUISA MAY ALCOTT IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER HOME AT ORCHARD HOUSE; ANNIE LEIBOVITZ PHOTOS OF THE MUSEUM TO BE FEATURED DURING PERFORMANCE OF CHARLES IVES’S CONCORD SYMPHONY (MAY 26)

BOSTON POPS 2012 UNIFYING THEME, “VISIONS OF AMERICA,” INSPIRES A SEASON DEDICATED TO THIS COUNTRY’S GREATEST MUSICAL TRADITIONS

“CITY OF CHAMPIONS” CONCERTS SPONSORED BY ARBELLA INSURANCE FOUNDATION

Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops will present the multimedia work “Visions of America Photo Symphony,” on May 22 and 26 featuring the world premiere of three new songs with lyrics by Alan and Marilyn Bergman, music by Roger Kellaway, images by the award-
winning photo-historian Joseph Sohm, and recorded narration by Clint Eastwood. The “Visions of America Photo Symphony,” a sweeping photographic portrait of American life, is the centerpiece of the Boston Pops 2012 spring season. The first public performances of the work this season will feature vocals by Maureen McMullan and Alan Oxenhandler.

CITY OF CHAMPIONS CONCERT SERIES TO FEATURE SPECIAL RED SOX NIGHT ON MAY 24
The third week of Boston Pops spring concerts will also feature a three-night “City of Champions” concert series, May 23-25, headlined by a special “Red Sox Night” on May 24. These sports-themed concerts will celebrate Boston’s storied teams with tunes such as Take Me Out to the Ballgame, Sweet Caroline, and John Williams’s Fanfare for Fenway, recently premiered by the Boston Pops at a special tribute to the 100th Anniversary of Fenway Park. New England Patriots legend and pro football Hall of Famer Andre Tippett will also join the orchestra to narrate “Freddie the Football,” and after a Pops rendition of John Williams’s Olympic Spirit, a variety of professional and Olympic female athletes will appear onstage including: Courtney Kennedy, Hockey (2002 Silver, 2006 Bronze); Katie King Crowley, Hockey (1998 Gold, 2002 Silver, 2006 Bronze); Hilary Knight, Hockey, (2010 Silver); Joan Benoit Samuelson, Marathon (1984 Gold); Molly Schaus, Hockey (2010 Silver); and Janel Jorgensen McArdle, Swimming (1988 Silver).

Food vendors in baseball caps will walk the aisles during the “City of Champions” concerts selling Fenway-style popcorn and snacks from hot dog stands. Keith Lockhart will blast Pops memorabilia into the crowds with a T-shirt cannon, and Symphony Hall ushers will don Boston sports apparel. Expect energetic organ music between Boston Pops sets and special cameo appearances by Red Sox personalities as well as mascot Wally during the May 24 “Red Sox Night” performance. The Dropkick Murphys will also step up to the plate on “Red Sox Night” to perform renditions of I’m Shipping Up to Boston and Tessie with the Boston Pops.

MAUREEN MCGOVERN TO SING SELECTIONS FROM BROADWAY MUSICAL LITTLE WOMEN ON MAY 26
Beloved vocalist Maureen McGovern will join the Boston Pops on May 26 to sing music from the Broadway musical Little Women, paying tribute to Little Women author Louisa May Alcott, who lived in Concord, Massachusetts, at Orchard House, which celebrates its 100th anniversary as a museum. Both the May 22 and May 26 performances will begin with a tribute to the heart of New England, featuring The Alcotts movement of Charles Ives’s Concord Symphony, selections from Morton Gould’s Fall River Legend, and John Williams’s Hymn to New England accompanying a video celebration of the 30th Anniversary of Channel 5’s Chronicle. This video was created by award-winning WCVB and Chronicle producer, editor, and cinematographer Art Donahue. The May 26 performance of The Alcotts will also feature Orchard House photographs captured by the renowned Annie Leibovitz.
Tickets for Boston Pops programs range from $22-$92 and may be purchased by visiting www.bostonpops.org, calling 888-266-1200, or visiting the Symphony Hall box office at 301 Massachusetts Avenue.

“VISIONS OF AMERICA” IS BOSTON POPS 2012 UNIFYING THEME

The Boston Pops 2012 unifying theme, Visions of America, inspires a season dedicated to celebrating many of this country’s greatest musical traditions. Concerts throughout the season feature striking images from photo-historian Joseph Sohm’s extraordinary Americana collection on screens above Boston Pops performances. The first public Boston Pops performances of the hour-long “Visions of America Photo Symphony” appear on May 22 and May 26, with the Boston Pops premiering An Open Road’s An Open Door, 3 Keys - Red, White, Blues, and A Place You Want to Call Home, three new songs by Roger Kellaway with lyrics by Alan and Marilyn Bergman.

MORE ON MAUREEN McGOVERN

Maureen McGovern has spent much time in recent years wowing audiences in her Drama Desk nominated role of Marmee in the musical Little Women, first on Broadway and more recently in the show’s first national tour. She has also starred on Broadway in The Pirates of Penzance, Nine, 3 Penny Opera, and Off-Broadway in Brownstone, appeared in the Broadway National Tour of The King and I, and regionally in The Lion in Winter, Of Thee I Sing, Let ‘Em Eat Cake, The Umbrellas of Cherbourg, and more. McGovern’s recording career began with her Oscar-winning International Gold Records, “The Morning After” and “We May Never Love Like This Again.” She was nominated for a Grammy as "Best New Artist" and for her The Pleasure of His Company CD and was awarded a Grammy for her participation in Songs From The Neighborhood: The Music of Mister Rogers. She has recorded more than 25 albums, including songwriter tributes to George Gershwin, Harold Arlen, Richard Rodgers, and Alan & Marilyn Bergman. Her most recent record, “A Long and Winding Road,” was released in 2008. A concert artist for over 36 years, she possesses a range of talents, from pop to jazz to classical and to the musical theater. She has consistently been a much sought-after guest artist with such major orchestras as the Boston Pops, the National Symphony, and the New York Pops. She has also toured extensively with the jazz greats Mel Tormé, Mercer Ellington and The Duke Ellington Orchestra, and John Pizzarelli.

MORE ON JOSEPH SOHM

Joseph Sohm is an American history teacher turned photo-historian. For over thirty years, he has photographed the fifty United States and has published his images in such outlets as National Geographic, Time, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Wall Street Journal, and his images have appeared on CNN, ABC, PBS, and MSNBC. His photograph of President Clinton is featured on the back cover of his book My Life and in his Presidential Library. Sohm’s images are featured in Frederick J. Ryan’s portrait of Ronald Reagan, The Great Communicator; in Bill Maher’s Real Time; in Al Gore’s Oscar-winning film An Inconvenient Truth; in NBC’s 9/11 memorial, Concert for America; on the Today Show and on the cover of John Grisham’s novel King of Torts. His image was chosen for both the covers of Newsweek and U.S. News and World Report during the contested 2000 Presidential Election. The U.S. Department of State displays his work in more than ten embassies worldwide. With music by Roger Kellaway and lyrics by Alan and Marilyn Bergman enhancing his images, Mr. Sohm’s book “Visions of America: Photographing Democracy,” has transformed into the “Visions of America Photo Symphony,” a highlight of the Boston Pops season.
MORE ON ALAN OXENHANDLER

Making his Boston Pops debut, “Alan Ox—as he is known in his hometown of St. Louis—is the exception to the rule. His music path is dawning at a time in life when many performers are nestled into repetitive schedules and careers long established on the world stage. A “singing drummer” involved in pop and jazz since age fourteen, Al spent many nights during high school appearing in such downtown clubs as The Apartment and The Red Onion. At age thirty, he switched paths to pursue seven years of jazz piano studies with the legendary Herb Drury, all the while performing 150-200 dates a year over a 25-year span as one of the busiest “self-accompanied singers” in the city’s jazz scene. His five-year run at the Ritz-Carlton typified his tenure at other bookings in such hotspots as the Palm Beach, Lido, and Fedora cafés, and many others. His singing and stage presence are grounded in the tonal and rhythmic sensibility of all that came before. Since releasing his CD, Something’s Gotta Give, Oxenhandler has been called upon more and more for his vocal talent alone. Songwriter Al Hammerman chose Alan to sing a dozen big band cuts spanning three of his recently released CDs—All New Songs, Just Lucky, and I Got A Song. Alan’s ballad rendition of “Here Comes Santa” is a featured cut on the soundtrack of the movie Becoming Santa, released in 2011 at the SXSW Festival. On a personal note, Alan’s son Evan, a graduate of Boston’s Berklee College of Music, is completing his master of music/jazz performance degree in guitar at UNT. His daughter Lauren is preparing her sociology thesis at Leiden University in the Netherlands. For more information on Alan, please visit ThatSinger.net.

MORE ON MAUREEN McMULLAN

Born and raised in Coatbridge, Scotland, Maureen McMullan began her musical studies in classical voice and piano at age 12 with longtime mentor Valerie E. Moyes MBE. Maureen starred as a lead vocalist in the hit PBS-TV music special Highland Heartbeat, which was narrated by BAFTA- and Emmy-award winning actor Brian Cox and broadcast across North America in 2009. Maureen was invited to perform at both the 41st and 42nd Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland as part of the prestigious Shure World Jazz Vocal Competition, where the judges included Al Jarreau and Patti Austin. Some of her performing highlights in the USA include sharing the stage with Don Was and Ben E. King, opening the New Hampshire Highland Games on Loon Mountain for 10,000 people, and singing live on WCVB Channel 5 to 24,000 people in Boston Common for the “Holiday Lights” ceremony. Maureen has also been featured on 89.7 WGBH radio with “A Celtic Sojourn” host Brian O’Donovan, and gave a special live performance for filming with his studio audience. Beyond her creative pursuits, Maureen maintains an active interest in music business, after spending a wonderful year in Nashville, Tennessee, honing her songwriting skills and working for publishing giant Warner/Chappell in their A&R tape room. Since moving back to Boston, Maureen has been working towards her MBA between Harvard Extension School and now at Northeastern University.

MORE ON THE DROPKICK MURPHYS

Since they first hit the scene in 1996, this seven-piece Celtic-American punk rock group has racked up record sales in excess of 3 million worldwide. Their smash hit single “I’m Shipping Up to Boston” exceeded platinum status and was featured in Martin Scorsese’s Academy Award-winning film The Departed. Their 2007 offering, The Meanest of Times, debuted in the Billboard Top 20, marking the band’s highest chart entry to date and heralding the formal arrival of their independent label Born & Bred Records. The band has sold out shows worldwide and cultivated one of the most fervent fan bases in rock music. They even penned “Tessie,” the theme song to the first Red Sox World Series win in 86 years. The band’s most recent album, Going Out In Style, was released in March 2011 on Born & Bred.
Records. Although the Boston Pops released an orchestration of “I’m Shipping Up to Boston” on The Red Sox Album, this year’s “Red Sox Night” marks the Dropkick Murphys’ Boston Pops debut.

BOSTON POPS HOLDS “WHAT’S YOUR VISION OF AMERICA?” PHOTO CONTEST
The Boston Pops “Visions of America” season will feature a “What’s Your Vision of America?” photo contest, which asks contestants to submit an original photograph that captures an aspect of the spirit of America. Five winning photos will be featured as part of Boston Pops concerts this season. To enter the contest, simply email a photo to visions@bso.org with your name, age, photo location, and a brief caption by June 1. Photos will be on display on Facebook and www.bostonpops.org. You can follow the “What’s Your Vision of America?” photo contest on twitter using the hashtag #visionsofamerica. The winning photographs will be selected by a panel including Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart and photo-historian Joseph Sohm.

For more information, including ticket information, photos, and artist bios, please visit www.bostonpops.org/presskit.

COMING UP NEXT

STEVE MARTIN AND THE STEEP CANYON RANGERS, AN EVENING OF COMEDY & BLUEGRASS, MAY 29 & 30
Multi-talented cultural icon Steve Martin will make his long-overdue Boston Pops debut on May 29 and 30 with the roving bluegrass troupe The Steep Canyon Rangers. After a Keith Lockhart-led performance of Ferde Grofé’s sweeping Grand Canyon Suite in the first half of the performance, Steve Martin will then take the reins to present an Evening of Comedy and Bluegrass with Maestro Lockhart, the Boston Pops, and help from his trusty banjo. These concerts mark the first time Steve Martin and The Steep Canyon Rangers have performed with an orchestra. The May 29th concert will also feature the winners of the annual Young Artists Competition at the Boston Pops presented by Fidelity Investments®.

“PRESIDENTS AT POPS,” MAY 31
The Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston’s corporate community celebrate the 31st annual “Presidents at Pops” on Thursday, May 31, at Symphony Hall. Joining conductors Keith Lockhart and John Williams will be special guest artists Steve Martin and The Steep Canyon Rangers in “An Evening of Comedy & Bluegrass.” The Boston Pops is honored to have Peter Palandjian, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Intercontinental Real Estate Corporation as the co-chair of the event for the third consecutive year. Joining Peter as a co-chair is Dan Fireman, Managing Partner of Fireman Capital Partners. The BSO's largest fundraising event, “Presidents at Pops” is designed for Boston business leaders and their guests, and celebrates the unique partnership between the BSO and the corporate community. Combined with its sister event, “A Company Christmas at Pops,” “Presidents at Pops” has helped to raise more than $45 million since its inception in 1982. “Presidents at Pops” raised $1 million last year, which was $100,000 over target. Funds raised through this event help support the BSO’s Youth and Community Outreach programs throughout the year. Ticket packages are available starting at $5,500. For more information, please contact Mary Thomson, Director of Corporate Initiatives, at 617-638-9278. Additional details about this gala fundraiser will be announced at a later date.
FILM NIGHT WITH JOHN WILLIAMS, JUNE 1 & 2
The orchestra welcomes Boston Pops Laureate Conductor John Williams to the podium, June 1 and 2, for Film Night, a favorite program for Symphony Hall audiences each year. Mr. Williams, the highly acclaimed composer and conductor behind blockbuster films such as Jaws, Star Wars, and Harry Potter, celebrates his 80th birthday in 2012. Including a performance of music from Mr. Williams’s score of The Reivers, with narration by former Senator Alan K. Simpson, these programs will showcase some of the most memorable movie music of all time, and film footage will be featured alongside many of the Hollywood scores. Mr. Williams will lead a salute to the Hollywood westerns including music from How the West Was Won, Dances with Wolves, and The Cowboys. The performance will feature music from the composer’s new Academy Award-nominated scores to the films War Horse and The Adventures of Tintin. Mr. Williams will also lead his recently composed Fanfare for Fenway, a tribute to Fenway Park’s 100th Anniversary, and a special video tribute to women Olympians will be set to the maestro’s Olympic Spirit.

2012 BOSTON POPS SEASON OVERVIEW
The Boston Pops 2012 unifying theme, Visions of America, inspires a season dedicated to celebrating many of this country’s greatest musical traditions, culminating in a multimedia “Visions of America Photo Symphony” program to end the season on June 14, 15, and 16. These special concerts will feature R&B sensation Patti Austin, jazz vocalist Steve Tyrell, photographs by Joseph Sohm, music by Roger Kellaway, and lyrics by the unrivaled team of Alan and Marilyn Bergman, with a recorded narration provided by Clint Eastwood.

During the 2012 spring season, the Boston Pops will usher in a series of exciting talents to pay tribute to a wide range of American musical genres. Comedian, author, musician and all-around king of artistic versatility Steve Martin will pluck the strings of his banjo for his Boston Pops debut with The Steep Canyon Rangers on May 29 and 30, and for “Presidents at Pops” on May 31. John Williams, who celebrates his 80th birthday in 2012, will lead the ever-popular Film Night on Friday, June 1, and Saturday, June 2, featuring music from many of the cinematic masterpieces that launched the Boston Pops Laureate Conductor to worldwide acclaim. Mr. Williams also shares the podium with Keith Lockhart for “Presidents at Pops” on May 31. Gospel Night at Pops celebrates a milestone as well, when conductor Charles Floyd raises the voices of the Boston Pops Gospel Choir on the 20th annual performance of this transcendent program. The Saturday, June 9 Gospel Night concert will feature FOX Network’s American Idol finalist Melinda Doolittle, winner of BET Network’s Sunday’s Best Crystal Aikin, and Boston Pops cellist Owen Young. The Pops pay tribute to Barbra Streisand on May 15 and 16 with captivating vocals from Ann Hampton Callaway, a great interpreter of the American Songbook. Cole Porter, one of the most prolific contributors to the American Songbook, will also receive a Boston Pops salute with the dynamic husband-and-wife Broadway showstoppers Jason Danieley and Marin Mazzie on June 5, 6, and 8. This season also features a Wild West Night on June 12 and 13 with the three young members of the genre-trailblazing string trio Time For Three.

TICKET INFORMATION
Tickets for the 2012 Boston Pops season at Symphony Hall are priced from $22-$92. All performances start at 8 PM, except for the Family Matinee on May 12 at 3PM.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.bostonpops.org or by phone through SymphonyCharge at 617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200, Monday through Saturday from 10 AM to 6 PM (with a $6.25 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 AM to 6 PM, Monday through Friday, and noon to 6 PM on Saturday. On concert
days during the Pops season, the box office remains open until 8:30 PM. 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.

**SPONSORSHIP**
Opening Night at Pops and the entire 2012 Boston Pops season are sponsored by Fidelity Investments. The June 5th Cole Porter Tribute concert is sponsored by The Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2012. The Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel is the official Hotel of the Boston Pops. The City of Champions Series (May 23-25) is sponsored by Arbella Insurance Foundation. Commonwealth Worldwide is the Official Chauffeured Transportation Provider of the Boston Pops. American Airlines is the Airline Partner of the Boston Pops.
BOSTON POPS 2012 SEASON LISTING: May 22-26

Tuesday, May 22, 2012
Visions of America
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Maureen McMullan, guest artist
Alan Oxenhandler, guest artist

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

Thursday, May 24, 2012
City of Champions
Red Sox Night (May 24)
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Tanglewood Festival Chorus, John Oliver, conductor
Andre Tippett, special guest
James Demler, guest artist
Additional special guests from the Red Sox TBA

Friday, May 26, 2012
Visions of America
Keith Lockhart, conductor
Maureen McGovern, guest artist
Maureen McMullan, guest artist
Alan Oxenhandler, guest artist

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