



BOSTON POPS, LED BY CONDUCTOR KEITH LOCKHART, RINGS IN THE 2016 HOLIDAY SEASON AT JORGENSEN

Sat, Dec 3, 2016 at 8 pm

The world-renowned Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, under the baton of legendary conductor Keith Lockhart, brings a gift basket brimming with holiday musical treasures for all ages to UConn's Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday evening, December 3rd, at 8 pm. Performing with the Pops Orchestra as part of their 2016 Holiday Tour will be the 100-voice Metropolitan Chorale led by music director Lisa Graham. Doors will open at 7:00 pm. Concert begins at 8:00 pm.

Capturing the magic of New England's Christmas season, the Boston Pops will perform a dazzling mix of carols and popular Christmas classics, including *A Visit from St. Nicholas*, which is the Pop's signature arrangement of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. The appearance of a surprise guest, who will give a special twist to the narration of this holiday favorite, promises to be among the evening's highlights.

Children of every age will be delighted to see Santa Claus himself make a guest appearance during the concert's finale, followed by the traditional Boston Pops' "Merry Little Sing-Along," (featuring perennial favorites *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, *Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!*, *Winter Wonderland*, and *Jingle Bells*), which will bring the Boston Pops 2016 Holiday performance at Jorgensen to a close.

When asked in an interview why he feels that music becomes so important to most of us during the holiday season, Lockhart said, "I think it's because the music is a guide to our emotional connection with this time of the year. The music says things that we find impossible or embarrassing to say in words. It elicits feelings in us that we can't explain. You hear something you grew up listening to in church on Christmas Eve and you get the 'shivers-down your-spine-effect', which frankly is what has drawn me to perform this music all these years."

Affectionately known as "America's Orchestra," the Boston Pops is the most recorded and arguably the most beloved orchestra in the country, beginning with the establishment of the modern-era Pops by Arthur Fiedler and continuing through the innovations introduced by John Williams and the new-millennium Pops spearheaded by Lockhart.

Lockhart became the twentieth conductor of the Boston Pops in 1995, adding his artistic vision to the Pops tradition established by his predecessors John Williams and Arthur Fiedler. Mr. Lockhart holds the Julian and Eunice Cohen Boston Pops Conductor chair, and in 2015 celebrated his twentieth anniversary as Boston Pops Conductor.

Founded in 1979, The Metropolitan Chorale is a 100-voice auditioned chorus that is recognized as one of the Boston area's premier choral ensembles. The emphasis on diverse and innovative programming, combined with excellence in performance, yields a unique artistic contribution to the Boston arts community. The Chorale celebrated its 35th anniversary during the 2014-15 season. Under the direction of Dr. Lisa Graham since 2004, the Metropolitan Chorale has presented concerts exploring works by many of today's leading American and British composers, as well as such choral masterworks as Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Bach's Mass in B minor, Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony*, and Handel's *Israel in Egypt*.

Quick Reference

Holiday Special Event

Boston Pops Holiday Concert
Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra
Keith Lockhart, Conductor

Date

Sat, Dec 3, 8 pm

Place

Jorgensen Center
for the Performing Arts
2132 Hillside Road
UConn campus, Storrs, CT

Tickets

\$75, \$65

Box Office

860.486.4226
Mon–Fri, 10 am–5 pm

The Box Office window is also open for walk-up ticket sales 90 minutes before showtime.

For Immediate Release

MEDIA CONTACT:

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BOSTON POPS, continued

Dr. Graham is in her thirteenth season as music director of The Metropolitan Chorale. Under her leadership, membership has grown to 100 singers. Dr. Graham has shaped the Chorale's programming to include contemporary, American, and lesser-known works alongside the masterworks of the repertory.

For more information please visit:

Keith Lockhart at: www.keithlockhart.com

Pops Orchestra: www.bso.org

Lisa Graham at: www.wellesley.edu/music/facstaff/graham

This year Jorgensen was voted Best College or University Performing Arts Center in the *Hartford Courant's* CTNow, as well as *Connecticut Magazine's* Best of Performing Arts Venues (College) for 2016. Established in December of 1955, Jorgensen has grown to become the largest college-based presenting program in New England. Each season Jorgensen enriches the lives of students, faculty, staff, and area residents with 30 to 35 diverse performances from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles ranging from classical music to world music and dance, classical ballet and contemporary dance, comedy, family programming, and contemporary entertainment. Dedicated to University of Connecticut president Albert N. Jorgensen, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts continues to follow his vision of the University as the state's educational and cultural leader.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. Tickets are available now online. Prices are: Floor - \$75; Mezzanine - \$65; Balcony - \$65; UConn students - \$45.

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday through Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, and 90 minutes prior to events, or order online at jorgensen.uconn.edu. Convenient \$5 event parking is available in the North Garage. Free parking is available in Lots 9, F, and L. For a detailed parking map, go to park.uconn.edu.

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