BOSTON POPS, LED BY CONDUCTOR KEITH LOCKHART, MAKES 2015 HOLIDAY STOP AT JORGENSEN

Sat, Dec 5, 2015 at 8 pm

The world-renowned Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra under the baton of legendary conductor Keith Lockhart, who celebrated his 20th anniversary with the orchestra last spring, 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 5th, at 8 pm. Performing with the Pops Orchestra will be the Metropolitan Chorale of Brookline led by music director Lisa Graham, with guest artist tenor Duane Moody.

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 their 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 2015 Holiday Tour 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, “In a world that seems to be spinning crazily and out of control, seasonal music is something familiar and comforting that people can reach out and grab and say, ‘at least I can still recognize these great songs.’ That’s one reason why I think we love to come back and hear these holiday classics year-after-year.”

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 celebrates 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 Metro Boston’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
BOSTON POPS, continued

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.

Dr. Graham is in her twelfth 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.

Tenor Duane A. Moody is Associate Professor at Berklee College of Music (Voice) and an instructor and coach with the Levine School of Music in Washington, D.C. His career, spanning more than two decades, has taken him all over the world, including an international tour as Sportin’ Life in The Gershwins’ Porgy & Bess (1999-2005), an off-Broadway engagement with Three Mo’ Tenors (2007), a sacred recording with the group INSPIRATA, and an upcoming Christmas recital CD.

For the complete program for Boston Pop’s December 5th, 8:00 pm performance at UConn’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts please see: http://jorgensen.uconn.edu/events/view.php?id=481.

For more information on the artists please visit their Web sites:
Keith Lockhart at: www.keithlockhart.com
Lisa Graham at: http://www.wellesley.edu/music/facstaff/graham
Duane Moody at: https://www.berklee.edu/people/duane-moody

This year the University of Connecticut’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts proudly celebrates its 60th anniversary. 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. Floor seating is $75. Mezzanine seating is $65. Balcony seating is $55.

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., or order online at jorgensen.uconn.edu. The Box Office opens 90 minutes prior to event. Convenient $5 parking is located across the street in the North Garage.

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Quick Reference

Special Holiday Event
Boston Pops Holiday Concert

Date
Sat, Dec 5, 8:00 pm

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

Tickets
$75, $65, $55

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.