



**PRESS CONTACT:**

Bernadette Horgan, [bhorgan@bso.org](mailto:bhorgan@bso.org)

Matthew Erikson, [merikson@bso.org](mailto:merikson@bso.org)

Grace Munns, [gmunns@bso.org](mailto:gmunns@bso.org)

617-638-9280

**For Embargoed Release:**

**Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 2 p.m.**

**HOLIDAY POPS, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF KEITH LOCKHART, RETURNS WITH LIVE PERFORMANCES WITH AUDIENCES AT SYMPHONY HALL FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE DECEMBER 2019**

**TICKETS FOR THE 2021 HOLIDAY POPS SEASON, DECEMBER 2-24, GO ON SALE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, AT 10 A.M., THROUGH [BOSTONPOPS.ORG](http://BOSTONPOPS.ORG) OR 888-266-1200**



Boston Pops to Present 34 Holiday Concerts, including a **Sensory-Friendly Concert** on Sunday, December 5, at 10 a.m. and **Seven Kids™ Matinees**, Offering a Family-Friendly Menu with Special Holiday Treats, a Children™s Holiday Sing-Along, and an Opportunity for Photos with **Santa Claus**

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*Season Sponsored by Fidelity Investments*

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To view an online press kit with B roll and photos, [click here](#)

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The **Boston Pops** is thrilled to announce the return of the ever-popular **Holiday Pops** season at Symphony Hall, December 2 through 24. Under the direction of Boston Pops Conductor **Keith Lockhart**, the 2021 Holiday Pops season celebrates the reunion of the Pops with its devoted patrons, while the orchestra also welcomes new audience members to experience the sights and sounds of these special concerts with the one-and-only Boston Pops Orchestra. The 34 evening and matinee concerts will include **seven family-friendly Kids™ Matinees** and a **Holiday Pops Sensory-Friendly Concert**, with programs featuring both favorites of the season and contemporary holiday music—including the Boston Pops signature work and mega hit, “Sleigh Ride” as well as a visit from Santa Claus. These programs also will feature the **Tanglewood Festival Chorus**, under the direction of **James Burton**, returning to concertize for the first time since the onset of the pandemic. Symphony Hall will be festively decorated for the season and patrons on the orchestra level can order food and drink from their café-style tables.

The orchestra's commitment to returning to performances with audiences is matched by an equally strong commitment to the health and safety of everyone associated with Holiday Pops, including patrons, staff, and musicians. Please [click here](#) for the BSO's most recent announcement (8/31/21) about pandemic protocols at Symphony Hall this fall; details about protocols also appear below and at [bso.org/safety](https://www.bso.org/safety).



James Burton, BSO Choral Director and Conductor of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, holds the Alan J. and Suzanne W. Dworsky chair, endowed in perpetuity.

### Quote from Keith Lockhart, Julian and Eunice Cohen Boston Pops Conductor



"I am with incredible happiness that we announce our 2021 Holiday Pops season and the Boston Pops' return to Symphony Hall for live concerts with audiences for the first time since December 2019," said Keith Lockhart.

"This hiatus from performing has taught us to treasure on a whole new level what we do as musicians and performers. We have deeply missed our wonderful audiences and the incredible energy and inspiration they bring to the live concert experience.

"The 2021 Holiday Pops programs will reflect our renewed commitment to bringing our very best to our loyal audiences and welcoming newcomers as we celebrate a joyful return to live music with our cherished music community."

### 2021 Holiday Pops Ticket Information in Brief

The 2021 Holiday Pops season goes on sale Thursday, October 7, at 10 a.m. online at [bostonpops.org](https://www.bostonpops.org) or by phone at 888-266-1200; in-person ticket purchases will be available at the Symphony Hall box office (301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA) starting at 10 a.m. on October 7. Tickets for the Holiday Pops series begin at \$35 for regularly priced concerts; \$42 for special-priced concerts; \$45 for premium-priced concerts; and \$47 for super premium concerts. All tickets for the Sensory-Friendly Concert on December 5 at 10 a.m. are priced at \$30. Most Holiday Pops concerts will have one intermission; Kids' Matinees and the Sensory-Friendly Concert will be performed without intermission. Additional details are available at [bostonpops.org](https://www.bostonpops.org).



A complete listing of Holiday Pops concert dates appears at the end of this release. Â Â Â Â

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## HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR THE 2021 HOLIDAY POPS SEASON

The Boston Symphony Orchestra announced on August 31 that it will require audience members to provide proof of vaccination or proof of a negative test result, either a PCR test taken within 72 hours of the performance or an antigen test taken within the last 24 hours. Options for proof of vaccination include showing a vaccination card, a photo of the card, or a digital vaccine record upon entering Symphony Hall. Proof of a negative test will be accepted for children under age 12. The BSO's protocols will also require mask-wearing except when patrons are actively eating and drinking but will not include physical distancing. Children under age two do not have to wear a mask, but proof of a negative test for this age group will be required. At present, these protocols will also apply to the 2021 Holiday Pops season.

As conditions evolve over the coming months, the BSO will communicate directly with its ticket buyers concerning any subsequent changes to its protocols—including for Holiday Pops performances—at [bso.org/safety](https://www.bso.org/safety). The orchestra’s protocols will continue to be informed by recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the City of Boston, and the BSO’s own team of advisors and medical experts, including 9Foundations.

In recognition that patrons may prefer additional flexibility as pandemic conditions may change over the coming months, the orchestra is offering BSO and Holiday Pops ticket buyers exchanges or credits up until 24 hours before the start of each performance through the end of the 2021-22 BSO season on April 30. Information about policies and procedures will be sent to ticket buyers by email communications and posted at [bso.org](https://www.bso.org), with prompts also featured on the orchestra’s social media platforms linking to more detailed information.

All needed upgrades to Symphony Hall’s air ventilation and filtration systems have been completed and meet or exceed the standards recommended by healthy building experts, including the Global Biorisk Advisory Council, which has awarded Symphony Hall the GBAC STAR Facility Accreditation, considered the gold standard of prepared facilities. In addition, the BSO has earned the WELL Health-Safety Rating for Facility Operations and Management of Symphony Hall. For additional information, please click here for the BSO’s most recent announcement (8/31/21) about pandemic protocols at Symphony Hall.

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## **LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2021 HOLIDAY POPS SEASON: SENSORY-FRIENDLY CONCERT AND KIDS' MATINEES; TICKET INFORMATION, HISTORY ON PANDEMIC-RELATED CONCERT CANCELLATIONS; AND BRIEF BACKGROUND ON HOLIDAY POPS**

>> [The Boston Pops Presents a Sensory-Friendly Holiday Pops Concert, December 5 at 10 a.m.](#)

>> [Seven Kids’ Matinee concerts with special kid-friendly menus and holiday treats](#)

>> [Ticket Information](#)

>> [Holiday Pops Series Returns to Symphony Hall in 2021](#)

>> [About Holiday Pops](#)

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## **SPONSORSHIP**

The 2021 Holiday Pops Season is sponsored by Fidelity Investments. For over fifty years, Fidelity Investments and the Boston Pops have proudly worked together to bring wonderful performances to local audiences. As our partnership grows, so does our investment in the community we both share. In 2009, the Young Artists Competition was created for high school students to compete for the opportunity to perform live at a Boston Pops concert during a regular spring concert.

The Arbella Insurance Foundation is the Music for All Sponsor, supporting the Holiday Pops season and Kids' Matinee performances. Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Ltd. continues its support of the Boston Pops as supporting sponsor of the Holiday Pops season. The concert on Thursday, December 9, is sponsored by American Airlines, the Official Airline of the Boston Pops. The Wednesday, December 15, concert is sponsored by Fairmont Copley Plaza, the Official Hotel of the Boston Pops.

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Bernadette Horgan, Director of Public Relations ([bhorgan@bso.org](mailto:bhorgan@bso.org)), 617-638-9285

Matthew Erikson, Senior Publicist ([merikson@bso.org](mailto:merikson@bso.org)), 617-638-9284

Grace Munns, Senior Publicist ([gmunns@bso.org](mailto:gmunns@bso.org)), 617-638-9286

**2021 Boston Pops Holiday Series**

Thursday, December 2, 8 p.m.

Friday, December 3, 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 4, 3 p.m.

Saturday, December 4, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 5, 10 a.m. (Sensory-Friendly Concert)

Sunday, December 5, 3 p.m. (Kidsâ€™™ Matinee)

Thursday, December 9, 8 p.m.

Friday, December 10, 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 11, 11 a.m. (Kidsâ€™™ Matinee)

Saturday, December 11, 3 p.m.

Saturday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 12, 11 a.m. (Kidsâ€™™ Matinee)

Sunday, December 12, 3 p.m.

Sunday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 15, 8 p.m.

Thursday, December 16, 8 p.m.

Friday, December 17, 4 p.m.

Friday, December 17, 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 18, 11 a.m. (Kids' Matinee)

Saturday, December 18, 3 p.m.

Saturday, December 18, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 19, 11 a.m. (Kidsâ€™™ Matinee)

Sunday, December 19, 3 p.m.

Sunday, December 19, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, December 20, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, December 21, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, December 21, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, December 22, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, December 22, 8 p.m.

Thursday, December 23, 11 a.m. (Kidsâ€™™ Matinee)

Thursday, December 23, 4 p.m.

Thursday, December 23, 8 p.m.

Friday, December 24, 11 a.m. (Kidsâ€™™ Matinee)

Friday, December 24, 3 p.m.

Please note there are no plans for a New Year's Eve concert at this time.

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