



# Boston Pops

**For immediate release:**  
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## **Boston Pops Announces Two Special Programs Honoring Veterans and the Military Community**

**Boston Pops' *The Eyes of the World: From D-Day to VE Day*  
Film to Air on GBH-2 on Nov. 7 at 9 P.M.**

*Live performances of The Eyes of the World were filmed at  
Symphony Hall last May with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops,  
host Katie Couric, narrator-historian John Monsky, and four  
Broadway star-vocalists.*

**The Pops Will Offer a Free Holiday Pops Military Preview  
Event on Dec. 4 at Symphony Hall**

*For the second year, about 2,000 members of the military community  
and their families will attend the free preview event, including  
veterans, active military, families of the fallen, reservists, and, new  
this year, ROTC groups from local colleges.*

[Click here](#) for a press kit for both events

Ahead of the Veterans Day holiday and in keeping with its longstanding patriotic commitment to celebrating those who serve our country, the Boston Pops is proud to announce two special programs honoring veterans and the military community. These two programs build on the Pops' reputation as "America's Orchestra," earned, in part, for having presented The Boston Pops July 4 Fireworks Spectacular, one nation's most beloved and largest public Independence Day celebrations for more than half a century and for the breadth of its repertoire and recordings.

Starting this month, public television viewers across America can watch *The Eyes of the World: From D-Day to VE Day*, an inspiring multimedia show that was filmed during two live performances at Symphony Hall last May marking the 80th anniversary of D-Day. In Greater Boston, the filmed concert production will be broadcast on GBH-2 on Thursday, November 7 at 9 p.m. It is available to stream on pbs.org and through the PBS app and to view on public television stations nationwide and in Canada ([click here](#) to check your local listings). The special is distributed by American Public Television.

And, to kick off the start of the holiday season, the Pops will offer a free preview of its very popular Holiday Pops program to members of the military community and their families on the evening of Wednesday, December 4. This is the second year of the Holiday Pops Military Preview event, all tickets to which are being distributed through local organizations that serve veterans, active military, and families of the fallen. These organizations have been selected through previous association with the Boston Pops and with the help of lead event sponsor Highland Street Foundation and other partners. Retired U.S. Army Brigadier General Jack Hammond, who serves as the Chief Executive for the Home Base National Center of Excellence for Mental Health and Brain Injuries, will be the special guest narrator of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*.

**Statement from Chad Smith, BSO President and CEO:**

"Veterans Day is a time to express our deep gratitude to veterans, military service members, and their families for the daily sacrifices they make for us. We are proud to honor and celebrate the military community through these two Pops programs. Last spring, we commemorated the 80th anniversary of D-Day with two inspiring performances of *The Eyes of the World* and are excited to be able to share a filmed version of this powerful program with national viewers through our partnership with the show's creator American History Unbound and distributor American Public Television. And recognizing that military service often means families are apart during the holiday season, we are excited to share the joy of

our Holiday Pops program with members of the military community, and we thank Highland Street Foundation and other partners for making this free preview event possible for a second year.”

**Statement from Keith Lockhart, Boston Pops Conductor:**

“As conductor of the Boston Pops for nearly three decades, I’ve always been very honored to perform on the Esplanade stage each July 4 with military groups such as the US Army Field Band and the Singing Sergeants. Working with John Monsky and American History Unbound to present *The Eyes of the World* concerts at Symphony Hall last May was a high point of our spring season, and I’m proud that public TV viewers all over America will have the opportunity to see and hear this thrilling chapter of history come alive. And, at our December 4 Holiday Pops Military Preview event, we look forward to sharing the joy and festivity of the holidays with our service member guests and their families, giving just a little back to this remarkable group of people, who give all of us so much every day of the year.”

**[Click here](#) for a press kit with Pops photos and [watch a video trailer](#) of *The Eyes of the World***

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## About *The Eyes of the World* TV Production Featuring the Boston Pops

Hosted by award-winning journalist and best-selling author **Katie Couric** and narrated by historian and writer **John Monsky**, *The Eyes of the World* weaves together music, meticulously researched history and rare film and photographs from the National Archives. **Keith Lockhart** and the **Boston Pops** are joined on stage by top Broadway vocalists **Shereen Ahmed** (*My Fair Lady*), **Kate Rockwell** (*Mean Girls*), **Nicholas Rodriguez** (*Company*) and **Daniel Yearwood** (*Hamilton*, *Sweeney Todd*). Lockhart conducts the Pops in a stirring mix of music that captures the essence of the times, featuring compositions by Glenn Miller, Richard Rodgers, Edith Piaf, Frank Loesser, Aaron Copland and more. This symphonic and visual journey, capturing the dramatic final months of World War II

in Europe, commemorates Veterans Day and the 80th anniversary of D-Day last June.

Through projections over the stage, the words and images of Ernest Hemingway, J.D. Salinger, *Vogue*-model-turned-photojournalist Lee Miller, daredevil war photographer Robert Capa, and the heroic 761st Tank Battalion bring Monsky's powerful narrative to life. Flags that were carried onto the beaches and paved the way to victory are displayed in Symphony Hall to further illuminate these stories often lost to history.

*The Eyes of the World* film was jointly produced by [American History Unbound](#), [American Public Television \(APT\)](#), the [Boston Pops](#), and [Bright Blue Media](#).



## About the Holiday Pops Military Preview Event

The December 4 Holiday Pops Military Preview event will continue a new holiday tradition that the **Boston Pops** and **Keith Lockhart** launched last year. The inaugural event was a great success, with Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll attending and “conducting” the Pops in “Sleigh Ride,” one of the program’s perennial audience favorites. **Retired Brigadier General Jack Hammond**, CEO of Home Base, will be the special guest narrator this year.



Working with lead event sponsor, Highland Street Foundation, the Pops identified over 40 organizations that serve veterans and members of the military community to distribute complimentary tickets to this year's event. These groups include the Boston Office of Veterans Services, the Massachusetts National Guard, Boston Vet Centers, Homes for Our Troops, Home Base, and MA Military Heroes Fund, and, new this year, ROTC groups from local colleges. In addition to these guests, free tickets are being distributed through employee veteran groups affiliated with longstanding Boston Pops, BSO, and Tanglewood sponsors, Fidelity Investments, Fairmont Copley Plaza, Arbella Insurance Foundation, Genesis Motor America, Bank of America, Bloomberg, and Berkshire Health Systems.

Tickets to the December 4 Military Preview are not available to the general public, but tickets remain available for other Holiday Pops concerts from December 5 through 24 ([see full schedule](#)).

## **How to Buy Tickets for Other Pops Performances this December**

All tickets for the Holiday Pops Military Preview event on December 4 are being distributed to veterans and members of the military community through partner organizations, as described above.

Tickets for other Holiday Pops performances as well as for the Pops' *Home Alone* in Concert on Dec. 27-29 and the Pops' New Year's Eve concert starring Bernadette Peters may be purchased at [bostonpops.org](http://bostonpops.org) or 888-266-1200.

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## **Sponsorship**

The 2024-25 Pops Season is sponsored by **Fidelity Investments**. For over 50 years, Fidelity Investments and the Boston Pops have proudly worked together to bring wonderful performances to local audiences. **Fairmont Copley Plaza** is the Official Hotel of the Boston Pops.

We are grateful to the **Highland Street Foundation** for their lead sponsorship in support of the Military Preview event, and for lending their expertise to ensure the hall is filled with this deserving community.

## Titles for BSO Artistic and Executive Leadership

**Andris Nelsons**, Ray and Maria Stata BSO Music Director and Head of Conducting at Tanglewood

**Chad Smith**, Eunice and Julian Cohen BSO President and CEO

**Keith Lockhart**, Julian and Eunice Cohen Boston Pops Conductor

**Thomas Wilkins**, Artistic Partner for Education and Community Engagement / Germeshausen Youth and Family Concerts Conductor

**James Burton**, Alan J. and Suzanne W. Dworsky BSO Choral Director and Conductor of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus

**Carlos Simon**, Deborah and Philip Edmundson Composer Chair

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## More BSO News

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Tanglewood | 297 West Street | Lenox, MA 01240 | [Box Office Hours](#)

Symphony Hall | 301 Massachusetts Avenue | Boston, MA 02115 | [Box Office Hours](#)

Ticketing & Customer Service | 617.266.1200 (M-F: 10-4pm & Sat: 12:30pm-4:30pm) Service & Tickets | Subscriptions 888.266.7575

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