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## BOSTON POPS AND KEITH LOCKHART ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF 2023 SPRING SEASON AT SYMPHONY HALL, MAY 12–JUNE 10

*From Broadway, jazz, gospel, and alt-rock to family film favorites and immersive travel and gaming adventures, the 2023 Boston Pops spring season offers exciting musical experiences for audiences of all ages*

Tickets, starting at \$33, go on sale to the public on March 28 at 10 a.m., available at [bostonpops.org](https://bostonpops.org) or 888-266-1200

[Click here for a 2023 Spring Pops concert listing](#)

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### **2023 Spring Pops Season Highlights**

- A cast of Broadway stars performs in the season-opening ***Ragtime: The Symphonic Concert*** (5/12 & 13), a special concert version of the 1997 Tony-winning musical *Ragtime* prepared for the Pops by its original creators, to be conducted by **Keith Lockhart** with stage direction by **Jason Daniele**
- Trumpet virtuoso **Byron Stripling**, the Pops, and **Keith Lockhart** present ***Roots of Jazz: Trumpet Titans***, an exploration of the unforgettable marks jazz innovators Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, and others left on American music (5/17 & 18)

- A nostalgic and family-friendly concert tour of favorite ***Disney Princess*** songs with a quartet of Broadway soloists, the Pops, **Keith Lockhart**, and projected onstage animation clips (5/20 & 27)
- Screenings of the classic 1983 film ***Star Wars: Return of the Jedi***, accompanied by the Pops and **Keith Lockhart** performing **John Williams'** blockbuster score (5/25, 26 & 27)
- Piano icons **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** and **Michael Feinstein** join forces for the first time in ***Two Pianos: Who Could Ask for Anything More?*** (5/31 & 6/1), an innovative program with the Pops and **Keith Lockhart** celebrating George Gershwin and his contemporaries
- An immersive and exhilarating experience of iconic video game music and graphics—***Video Games Live*** (6/3)—created and hosted by game industry veteran **Tommy Tallarico** with the Pops and guest conductor **Emmanuel Fratianni**
- Boston-based alternative rock band **Guster** partners with the Pops and **Keith Lockhart** to perform their greatest hits (6/6 & 6/7)—as well as sharing the stage with the high school-age winners of the **Fidelity Investments Young Artists Competition** (6/6)
- Popular PBS travel guru **Rick Steves** takes audiences on a ***Symphonic Journey*** across Europe, combining orchestral music featuring the Pops and **Keith Lockhart** with high-definition cinematography and Steves' insights into European history (6/8 & 6/9)
- Conductor **Charles Floyd** and the **Boston Pops Gospel Choir** collaborate with Grammy winner and gospel superstar **Smokie Norful** for the 29th annual ***Gospel Night*** (6/10)

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To view an online press kit with B roll, artist bios, photos, and Boston Pops history, [click here](#)

To request interviews or press tickets, contact Matthew Erikson at [merikson@bso.org](mailto:merikson@bso.org) or call 617-638-9284

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**Keith Lockhart** and the **Boston Pops Orchestra** are thrilled to announce their 2023 Spring Pops season, May 12–June 10, encompassing a celebratory spectrum

of concerts and remarkable breadth of musical genres for which “America’s Orchestra” is universally recognized.

Spring Pops 2023 features favorite musical offerings such as a concert version of a Broadway musical (*Ragtime: The Symphonic Concert*), Disney music (*Disney Princess—The Concert*), and Film Night (*Star Wars: The Return of the Jedi*). In addition, it welcomes the returns of Broadway stars **Nikki Renée Daniels**, **Susan Egan**, and **Alton Fitzgerald White**; trumpeter **Byron Stripling**; pianists **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** and **Michael Feinstein**; indie rock band **Guster**; travel expert **Rick Steves**; and conductor **Charles Floyd**—as well as exciting Pops debuts by Broadway vocalists **Christy Altomare**, **Klea Blackhurst**, **John Cariani**, **David Harris**, **Arielle Jacobs**, **A.J. Shively**, **Syndee Winters**; video game impresario **Tommy Tallarico**; and Grammy-winning gospel superstar **Smokie Norful**, among others.

The 136th Boston Pops season takes place in the festive atmosphere of world-famous Symphony Hall, where patrons can sit at cabaret-style tables and order food and drink with family and friends during performances. Tickets to the 2023 Boston Pops season, starting at \$33, are available beginning on Tuesday, March 28, at 10 a.m., in person at the Symphony Hall Box Office, by calling 888-266-1200, or by visiting [www.bostonpops.org](http://www.bostonpops.org).

This is Maestro Lockhart's 28th year leading the Pops, making him its second longest-serving conductor since the Pops was founded in 1885, after Arthur Fiedler.

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

“What I love most about planning each Boston Pops spring season is the challenge of introducing new artists and musical themes while also focusing on the great musical traditions that our wonderful audiences have come to cherish and expect each year. From iconic Broadway musicals, a legendary John Williams film score, and *Gospel Night*, to *Video Games Live*, Guster, and an appearance by intrepid world traveler Rick Steves, I think we’ve found that perfect balance for the 2023 season.”

### **FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE 2023 SPRING POPS SEASON**

**[Broadway and Great American Songbook at Pops: \*Ragtime: The Symphonic Concert\* and \*Two Pianos: Who Could Ask for Anything More?\*](#)**

Opening the Boston Pops' 2023 season on May 12 and 13 is **Ragtime: The Symphonic Concert**, a special concert version of the 1997 Tony-winning musical *Ragtime* prepared for the Pops by its original creators, Terrence McNally, Lynn Ahrens, and Stephen Flaherty. Based on the 1975 novel by E.L. Doctorow, *Ragtime* weaves together the stories of three intersecting groups in the U.S. in the early 20th century: Eastern European immigrants, the African American community in Harlem, and an upper-class white family; hit tunes from the musical include “Wheels of a Dream,” “Make Them Hear You,” and “Back to Before.” The cast for this concert version is headed by Broadway stars **Alton Fitzgerald White, Elizabeth Stanley, John Cariani, Nikki Renée Daniels, David Harris, A.J. Shively**, and **Klea Blackhurst** with stage direction by **Jason Daniele**.

Later in the season, on May 31 and June 1, two of today’s most acclaimed pianists—**Jean-Yves Thibaudet** and **Michael Feinstein**—join forces for the first time in ***Two Pianos: Who Could Ask for Anything More?***, an innovative program celebrating the music of George Gershwin and his peers. The Pops and Keith Lockhart are musical partners, with new arrangements of beloved Great American Songbook melodies scored especially for the occasion.

**Family-Friendly Programs: *Disney Princess—The Concert*, *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*, *Video Games Live*, *A Symphonic Journey with Rick Steves***

On May 20 and 27, audiences can relive the experiences of their childhood as an all-star quartet of Broadway, television, and animated film icons sing the music of every Disney princess in *Disney Princess—The Concert*. Drama Desk-nominee **Christy Altomare**, Tony-nominee **Susan Egan**, Broadway favorite **Arielle Jacobs**, and Broadway World Award-winner **Syndee Winters**—alongside their “magical” music director, **Benjamin Rauhala**, and enchanting Prince, **Adam J. Levy**—join conductor Keith Lockhart and the Pops for this celebration of music, animation, and stories. Popular songs to include “How Far I’ll Go” (from *Moana*), “A Whole New World” (*Aladdin*), “Colors of the Wind” (*Pocahontas*), “Part of Your World” (*The Little Mermaid*), “Almost There” (*The Princess and the Frog*), and “Let It Go” (*Frozen*). Patrons are encouraged to add to the festivity by dressing up as their favorite Disney character. (Please note that this production features Broadway performers appearing as themselves. Costumed Disney characters do not appear at this event. Presentation licensed by Disney Concerts. © DISNEY)

During Maestro Lockhart's tenure, the Pops has been at the forefront of performances of film music alongside screenings of beloved Hollywood classics, including recent performances of *Star Wars: A New Hope*, *Jaws*, *Back to the Future*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Singin' in the Rain*. This year, the Pops presents live orchestral accompaniments of **Pops Conductor Laureate John Williams'** blockbuster score to ***Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*** (1983) with screenings of the complete film on May 25, 26, and 27. (*Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* is produced under license by Disney Concerts in

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Video game music has become one of the hottest genres for concert performance in recent years, and this year for the first time became eligible for Grammy Award consideration. On June 3, the Pops ventures into the world of gaming with **Video Games Live**, an immersive concert experience featuring music from iconic video games—*Halo*, *Kingdom Hearts*, *Final Fantasy*, *Skyrim*, *Metal Gear Solid*, and many more—and accompanying visuals that will evoke the energy and excitement of a rock concert with the fun and interactivity only video games can provide. Created, produced, and hosted by game industry impresario **Tommy Tallarico**, the evening will include a costume contest and a meet-and-greet with top game composers, designers, and industry talent. **Emmanuel Fratianni** conducts.

Returning to Spring Pops on June 8 & 9 after a successful 2019 debut, PBS travel expert **Rick Steves** will take audiences on a ***Symphonic Journey*** through Europe. The performance, conducted by **Keith Lockhart**, combines Europe's most stirring Romantic-era musical movements with stunning high-definition cinematography and Steves' insights into European culture and history. As he did the last time he was at Symphony Hall, Steves will host a pre-concert talk at 6:30 p.m.

### **A Joyful Noise: Roots of Jazz: Trumpet Titans, Guster, and Gospel Night**

On May 17 and 18, trumpet virtuoso **Byron Stripling** explores with the Pops and Keith Lockhart the extraordinary musical legacies of jazz trumpeters Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, and Miles Davis, plus timeless music such as New Orleans staple "When the Saints Go Marching In," tunes from "Charleston" composer and jazz pioneer James P. Johnson, and works by Duke Ellington. The program continues the popular Roots of Jazz series that began with a *BSO NOW* concert stream that aired during the pandemic and continued last season with *Duke Ellington Reimagined*.

On June 6 and 7, the Pops and Maestro Lockhart are joined by the indie-rock band **Guster**. Guster originated at Tufts University in the mid-'90s and has garnered a loyal following through its distinctive vocal harmonies, elliptical lyrics, and social consciousness with songs like "Satellite," "Fa Fa," and "Amsterdam." Together, with the Pops, they will perform some of their greatest hits. The performance on June 6 will also feature winners of the **Fidelity Investments Young Artists Competition**. These talented young musicians, chosen from high-school entrants across Massachusetts, will receive mentoring from Lockhart, Guster, and others, culminating in their first performances at Symphony Hall. (This year, WBZ TV has partnered with Fidelity Investments and the Boston Pops in support of the competition and expanding the reach of our message throughout the community.)

To close the season on June 10, returning conductor **Charles Floyd** leads the 29th annual Gospel Night performance, featuring the **Boston Pops Gospel Choir** and special guest **Smokie Norful**. Best known for his 2002 album *I Need You Now* and the 2004 release *Nothing Without You* for which he won a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Soul Gospel Album, Norful has released five #1 Billboard Albums and been named Billboard's "Gospel Artist of the Year" several times. He is the founding senior pastor of Victory Cathedral Worship Center in Illinois.

### **Boston Pops Spring 2023 Ticket Purchasing**

Tickets for the Boston Pops season at Symphony Hall, starting at \$33, are available at [bostonpops.org](http://bostonpops.org) or 617-266-1200 beginning on March 28 at 10 a.m. Performances start at 8 p.m., except for the 2 p.m. matinee performances of *Ragtime: The Symphonic Concert* on May 12 and *Disney Princess—The Concert* on May 20 and 27.

Groups of 20 or more may receive up to 10% off regular ticket prices and waived handling fees. Please call the Group Sales Office at 800-933-4255 for more details.

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.

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### **Spring Pops 2023 Sponsorship**

The 2023 Spring 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. As our partnership grows, so does our investment in the community we both share. In 2009, the **Fidelity Investments Young Artists Competition** was created for high school students to audition for the opportunity to perform live with the Boston Pops at a regular spring concert.

The **Arbella Insurance Foundation** is the Music for All Sponsor, supporting the Spring Pops season, Kids' Matinee performances, and many of our other outreach and community initiatives. The Boston Pops is delighted to have **Fairmont Copley Plaza** continue its longstanding support as the Official Hotel of the Boston Pops. **American Airlines** returns as the Official Airline of the Boston Pops.

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