



JOIN THE
Celebration



Keith
LOCKHART **30** YEARS
with the Pops

For immediate release
Thursday, April 24, at 12 p.m.

**Celebrated Astronaut Sunita (Suni) L. Williams Joins
Music of the Cosmos Program with the Boston Pops,
May 23 & 24**

**Conducted by Keith Lockhart with *Star Trek* actor George
Takei as narrator, the multimedia program explores the
intersection of music, space, and science fiction**

[Click here](#) for a season press kit, including a video, photo, and full biography of
Suni Williams



Celebrated astronaut **Sunita (Sun) L. Williams** will feature in the Boston Pops *Music of the Cosmos* concert at Symphony Hall, making a guest appearance on stage alongside conductor **Keith Lockhart** and participating in post-concert meet and greets with the program's narrator, acclaimed actor **George Takei** (May 23 & 24). Developed in partnership with the Museum of Science, Boston and its Center for Space Sciences, the multimedia program explores the intersection of music, space, and science fiction. Takei, best known for his portrayal of Mr. Sulu in *Star Trek*, will make his Boston Pops debut as the concert's narrator.

A Needham native and veteran of three space missions, Williams has completed 62 hours and 6 minutes of total spacewalk time over the course of her career, the most of any female astronaut, and fourth on NASA's all-time list. She recently returned to Earth aboard a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft after a nine-month mission to space, during which she and her crewmates surprised

the audience of the 2024 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular with a special video call (included in the [press kit](#)). She previously joined the Pops in 2019 to narrate *From the Earth to the Moon and Beyond*, composed by James Beckel in honor of the 50th anniversary of the moon landing.

Music of the Cosmos is part of a season-long celebration of Lockhart's 30th anniversary as Boston Pops Conductor with a star-studded lineup of guest artists that includes Cynthia Erivo, Michael Feinstein, Cody Fry, Mandy Gonzalez, Brian Stokes Mitchell, and Orville Peck, among others (May 8–June 7). For more information on the Boston Pops 2025 season, please [click here](#) for the original season announcement.

About Sunita Williams

Sunita (Suni) L. Williams was selected as an astronaut by NASA in 1998 and is a veteran of three space missions, Expeditions 14/15, 32/33 and 71/72. Williams and Butch Wilmore launched aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft on June 5, 2024, for its first crewed flight, arriving at the International Space Station on June 6. Following the agency's decision to return Starliner uncrewed, the duo became Expedition 71/72 crewmembers and returned home in March 2025 aboard a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft along with NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov on NASA's SpaceX Crew-9 mission.

Williams has completed 62 hours and 6 minutes of total spacewalk time over the course of her career, the most of any female astronaut, and fourth on NASA's all-time list. She has logged 608 days in space over her three flights. She is a retired U.S. Navy Captain whose awards include two Defense Superior Service Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals, a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and a Humanitarian Service Medal.

Williams was raised in Needham, Massachusetts and is a graduate of Needham High School. In 2019, Needham named a new elementary school in her honor, the town's first school named after a woman.

How to Purchase Tickets

Tickets for the Boston Pops' spring season at Symphony Hall are currently available at [bostonpops.org](https://www.bostonpops.org).

All performances start at 7:30 p.m., except for the 2:30 p.m. matinee performances of *Disney's Frozen in Concert* (May 24 & 31).

Pops concerts offer cabaret-style seating on the orchestra floor level with food and beverage service at the tables. Balcony seating is also available. [Click here](#) to view a Pops-style seating chart.

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.

Accessibility

Accessible seats and other accommodations are available for all Symphony Hall patrons. The Boston Symphony has a dedicated line for patrons with accessibility needs who would like to purchase tickets or need any further information. This line can be reached by calling 617-638-9341 or by emailing access@bso.org. Patrons with disabilities can access Symphony Hall through the Cohen Wing on Huntington Avenue or through the Massachusetts Avenue entrance. For questions and further assistance please contact the Ticketing and Customer Service Team at customerservice@bso.org or 617-266-1200. For more information, [visit our website](#).

Sponsorship

The Boston Pops is proud to welcome back **Fidelity Investments** as Lead Season Sponsor for the 2025 Pops season. 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 Boston Pops is delighted to have **Fairmont Copley Plaza** continue its longstanding support as the Official Hotel of the Boston Pops.

About the Boston Pops

Led by conductor Keith Lockhart, the Boston Pops, known affectionately as “America’s Orchestra,” performs an exciting and eclectic mix of orchestral arrangements from a wide range of traditions including Broadway and the great American songbook, film music, classical, jazz, pop, country, folk, and, of course, holiday classics. The Pops was created in 1885 as the “light classical” summer-season venture of the Boston Symphony. The Boston Pops Orchestra reached its current iconic status during the 50-year tenure of the legendary Arthur Fiedler, who was succeeded in 1980 by the equally renowned film composer John Williams. Keith Lockhart took the helm in 1995. It was Fiedler who started the tradition of Pops performances on the Charles River Esplanade, including the annual Fourth of July celebration, brought the Pops to television with Evening at Pops (1970-2004), and initiated Holiday Pops, which marked its 50th anniversary in 2023. Fiedler welcomed to our stages dynamic, world-class guest artists including Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Julia Child, and Bob Hope. That tradition continues today with Keith Lockhart working with such stars as Brian Stokes Mitchell, The B-52s, Chaka Khan, Nick Jonas, and Rhiannon Giddens. With the Pops, Keith has made 81 television shows, led 45 national and 5 overseas tours, led the Pops at several high-profile sporting events including the Super Bowl, and recorded fourteen albums. Through it all the orchestra has remained one of the most recorded, familiar, and beloved ensembles in the world today.

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More BSO News

For more news about the BSO and Boston Pops, [read our recent press releases](#) or follow us on social media.



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

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