

# Boston Pops conductor keeps holiday music fresh

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Keith Lockhart is sure he won't tire of hearing songs like *Winter Wonderland* and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, even though he'll have conducted close to 50 Boston Pops holiday concerts between the end of November and New Year's Eve. He's especially looking forward to introducing the orchestra to an Ann Arbor audience Sunday, Dec. 8, at Crisler Arena when it plays the University Musical Society series.

This is the first time since Arthur Fiedler conducted the Boston Pops in 1962 that the group has been on the UMS series. Lockhart took over the orchestra in 1995 at the age of 35.

"I haven't gotten Scrooge-like," Lockhart said from Salt Lake City, where he's music director of the Utah Symphony. The Boston Pops kicked off a seven-concert tour Nov. 30 in Denver. After the Ann Arbor performance, the orchestra returns to Symphony Hall in Boston for concerts which run Dec. 10-30.

"Ann Arbor's still early on in the tour, but even later we still have to keep it fresh for the audience," Lockhart said. "You have to remember as a performer that you've heard it many times before, but it's the audience's first time."

Holiday music such as the



Keith Lockhart conducts the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra in a holiday concert that's part of the University Musical Society series in Ann Arbor.

prologue from Vaughan Williams' *Hodie and The Adoration of the Magi* from Respighi's *Three Botticelli Pictures* help keep it new when performing audience favorites

like *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *Jingle Bells* and *Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!* nearly every night. "It feels traditional, but I'm excited about making new

friends through our music," Lockhart said. "There's a wide range of music from classical symphonic to popular sacred and secular for a diverse audience, and a sing-a-long."

Begun in 1974, the Boston Pops Christmas concerts have become a tradition at Symphony Hall. A 1998 CD, *Holiday Pops*, allows audiences around the world to enjoy

## BOSTON POPS

What: The orchestra performs a holiday concert with the University Singers from California State University, Fullerton

When: 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8

Where: Crisler Arena, 333 East Stadium Boulevard, Ann Arbor

Tickets: \$15-\$50. Call (734) 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229

songs like Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride* and *Christmas Time is Here* from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Lockhart plans to record another CD at the end of the season.

"There are people in Boston who've come for 30 to 35 straight years," Lockhart said. "Santa always has to appear and this year soloist Kathleen Brett, an award-winning Canadian soprano, debuts with the Pops. We'll do songs like *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*."

"I love the music. I've always loved holiday music. Growing up, we always had favorite holiday albums. I didn't come from a musical family, but my dad played the stereo very well."

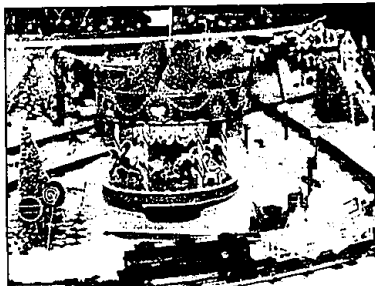
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