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PHILLY POPS TO PERFORM CONCERT ON THE BEACH IN **WILDWOOD ON JULY 2**

***FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, THE POPS KICKS OFF
INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND DOWN THE SHORE***



Philadelphia, PA (June 20, 2016) — On July 2, the Philly POPS will kick off the holiday weekend with a show on the beach in **Wildwood**.

“With the sand under our feet, the sound of waves crashing and the glowing boardwalk in the backdrop, I can’t think of a better way to start the holiday weekend,” said Frank Giordano, President and CEO, Philly POPS.

The concert features the 65-piece POPS orchestra, led by Music Director Michael Krajewski, guest vocalists Allison Blackwell and Justin Hopkins, plus the Voices of the POPS ensemble.

Blackwell, who is from Delaware County, most recently performed in the *Lion King* on Broadway. She sang with the POPS on Memorial Day and in February's *Carole King Songbook*. East Mount Airy native Hopkins began singing at the age of 8 with the Philadelphia Boys Choir. Today he is standout among his peers on the operatic stage with an extensive resume of opera roles and concert appearances throughout the country. Adding to the rich sound of the concert will be the **Voices of the POPS**, the ensemble of professional vocalists which regularly performs at POPS shows.

Ten percent of profits goes to support Operation First Response, The Michael Strange Foundation, the Wildwood American Legion and Wildwood Vietnam Vets. The show is part of Wildwood's July 1-4 **Celebrate America Weekend**, hosted by Boardwalk Entertainment Co. and UpcomingEvents.com.

Veterans will be admitted for free. Children's tickets are just \$10 and adult tickets are \$25.

Tickets: <http://phillypops.org/concerts-events/salute-series-events/pops-wildwood>

This concert, along with July 3's **POPS on Independence** and July 4's **POPS on the Parkway** during *Wawa Welcome America* weekend in Philadelphia, is a hallmark event in the POPS' **Salute Series** – events held on major U.S. holidays that honor the American tradition of service and bring POPS performances into the community. The *Salute Series* is supported by Comcast NBCUniversal, Visit Philly, The John Templeton Foundation, and LCG, Inc.

About The Philly POPS

The Philly POPS, the largest standalone pops orchestra in the United States, delights audiences with the inspired performance of American popular music. The POPS celebrates this distinctive musical heritage through an expanding repertoire of innovative concert presentations and a robust set of educational and engagement initiatives.

Now in its 37th season, the official POPS orchestra of Pennsylvania serves a consistently growing audience of over 100,000 annually. Music Director Michael Krajewski and the 65-piece Philly POPS orchestra keeps listeners tapping their toes to an impressive repertoire of songs from American traditions of music up through today's chart toppers.

Outside the concert hall, *Salute Series* performances – including POPS on Independence on July 3, *POPS in Philadelphia* on July 4 and the *I'll Be Home for Christmas: A Salute to the Military and First Responders* – celebrate the American tradition of service around important national holidays; *POPS in Schools* enhances music education for Philadelphia School District students; and *POPS Outside* brings POPS music to local communities.

The Philly POPS performs as a founding resident company of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, and at venues throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

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