



1776  2026

FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

For immediate release:
Tuesday, June 16 at 12 p.m.

Jane Lynch and Megan Hilty Added to Lineup for 2026 Boston Pops July 4 Fireworks Spectacular

**Lynch to Host the Event and Hilty Joins Lainey Wilson,
Chance The Rapper, and Trombone Shorty as a Special Guest
Artist**

**Anderson Cooper and Pamela Brown to Co-Anchor CNN's
July 4 National Highlights Broadcast Live from the
Esplanade**

*The entire July 4 concert and fireworks display will be streamed on **CNN All Access** (7:00–9:30 p.m. ET), and portions of the show including the fireworks will air nationally on **CNN**. The entire event will be broadcast locally in Boston on **WHDH-TV Channel 7**.*



Visit the [Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular website](#) for complete event information, including resources to help you plan your trip and sponsors.

For a **Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular** press kit, [click here](#)

(Boston, MA) — Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning actress **Jane Lynch** has been tapped to host the **Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular** and Tony- and Grammy-nominated actress **Megan Hilty** joins as a new special guest artist along with **Lainey Wilson**, **Chance The Rapper**, and **Trombone Shorty**. Led by legendary conductor **Keith Lockhart**, the free Pops concert returns to the Hatch Shell on the Charles River Esplanade for its 52nd year on Saturday, July 4, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. ET.

As the Signature Event of the Commonwealth's **MA250** (Massachusetts 250) initiative honoring the 250th anniversary of America's founding, this year's *Fireworks Spectacular* anchors a multi-year, statewide commemoration highlighting Massachusetts' legacy of leadership and innovation in shaping the nation's founding and future.

With an all-American lineup of top-tier guest artists, a revolutionary-themed drone show during the performance of the *1812 Overture*, and a fireworks display choreographed to music performed live by the Pops, the event showcases Massachusetts' creativity, collaboration, and community spirit to an in-person audience expected to break attendance records and millions of broadcast viewers nationally. Portions of the event including the fireworks will be carried live on CNN's network broadcast of July 4/America 250 celebrations across the U.S., co-anchored by **Anderson Cooper** and **Pamela Brown**, who will be based on the Esplanade.

As always, the concert program offers a patriotic sing-along and other Independence Day favorites performed by the Pops along with the **Boston Children's Chorus**, **Boston Crusaders Drum and Bugle Chorus**, **Middlesex County Volunteers Drums and Fifes**, **Tanglewood Festival Chorus**, and the **USS Constitution Color Guard**. The event roster also includes Mass. Poet Laureate **Regie Gibson** and pianist **Pelin Su Yavuz**.

The Pops performance concludes with a magnificent fireworks display illuminating the Charles River and choreographed with music performed by the Boston Pops, beginning at 9:15 p.m.

Statement from Keith Lockhart, Boston Pops Conductor: "Our blockbuster lineup for July 4 just got even *more* spectacular with the addition of Jane Lynch and Megan Hilty. These are two wonderful artists who we joyfully welcome back

after previous collaborations — Megan is a Fireworks Spectacular alum who was on the show in 2014, and we had the pleasure of working with Jane at Symphony Hall in 2019. We can't wait to see them again at this landmark event in Boston Pops history."

* * *

About the New Guest Performers on the July 4 Program

Full bios and photos available in the [press kit](#)

Megan Hilty (Special Guest Artist) started her career playing Glinda in the Broadway, National Tour, and Los Angeles companies of *Wicked*. Shortly after her 4.5 year run in *Oz*, she originated the role of Doralee in *9 to 5: The Musical*. But Hilty is probably best known for playing the triple-threat Ivy Lynn in the musical drama, *Smash*, on NBC. Her numerous television credits include "Annie, Live!," "Sean Saves The World," "The Pradeeps of Pittsburgh," and playing the iconic Patsy Cline in "Patsy & Loretta," earning her a Critic's Choice Award nomination for Best Actress. Onstage, Hilty has received nominations for Tony, Drama Desk, and Drama League Awards for her portrayal of Brooke Ashton in the Roundabout Theatre Company's revival of *Noises Off*. She also originated the role of Madeline Ashton in the Broadway company of *Death Becomes Her*, earning her Tony, Grammy, and Drama League Award nominations.

Jane Lynch (Host) is a five-time Emmy, two-time SAG Award, and Golden Globe Winner. Most recently, she was seen in her Emmy-nominated performance of Sazz Pataki in *Only Murders In The Building*. She co-starred on the award-winning comedy series *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* as well as hosted FOX's hit game show *The Weakest Link*. She recently reprised her role as Constance Carmell in the rebooted series *Party Down* and starred as Mrs. Rosie Brice in Broadway's first revival of the classic musical *Funny Girl*. She is well-known for her Emmy-winning role as host of *Hollywood Game Night* and her Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning portrayal of Sue Sylvester on *Glee*. Additional television credits include portraying Janet Reno in *Manifesto*, *Party Down*, *Space Force*, *Criminal Minds*, *The Good Fight*, *Portlandia*, *Angel From Hell*, *Lovespring International*, *Two and a Half Men* and *The L Word*.

How to Watch

The live event is free and open to the public. Access to the Oval lawn in front of the Hatch Shell opens at 12 p.m. Throughout the afternoon, the Esplanade will offer a variety of concessions and activities for all ages.

The entire event will be streamed on **CNN All Access** and will be broadcast locally on **WHDH-TV Channel 7** from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. E.T.

Thank you to Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular Sponsors

Lead Sponsors: MA250, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Sanofi, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and Dunkin'

Supporting Sponsors: Amazon, Bank of America, Biogen, the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, Eastern Bank, Fidelity Investments, Liberty Mutual Insurance, M&T Bank, Meet Boston, New Balance, Optum, Pilot House Associates, TJX Companies, and Thomas and Winifred Faust

Additional support is provided by: AT&T, Blue Cross Blue Shield Massachusetts, The Chiles Foundation, Eversource, The Fairmont Copley Plaza, General Dynamics, Leader Bank, National Grid, Millipore Sigma, Point 32 Health Companies, P&G Gillette, The Red Sox Foundation, Samuel Adams, and Suffolk

Public Safety Information and Site Restrictions

The rehearsal on July 3 is closed to the public.

Gates will open to the public at 12 p.m. (noon) on July 4.

Alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis are prohibited on the Esplanade per Mass DCR rules.

More public safety information including details about when Storrow Drive will be closed to vehicles will be provided by state officials closer to the day of the show and be posted on the [event website](#).

About the Boston Pops July 4 Fireworks Spectacular & Keith Lockhart

Since 1929, the Boston Symphony's Pops orchestra has performed its free Independence Day concert on the Esplanade, a beloved Boston tradition first conceived by Pops conductor Arthur Fiedler and carried on by John Williams and, since 1995, Keith Lockhart ([see bio](#)). A fireworks display became part of the tradition in 1974 when the late David Mugar became the event's producer, which he remained until 2016. In 2017, the Pops opened a new page in the BSO's history, presenting its first self-produced Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular. [Read more about the event's history](#).

Press Contacts

To register for July Fourth media credentials, contact Steve MacDonald at stageaccess@aol.com

For interviews with Keith Lockhart and other guest artists, contact Jan Devereux at jdevereux@bso.org

[Click here](#) for a press kit with full bios and photos of guest artists.

More BSO News

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



[PRIVACY POLICY](#) [CONTACT US](#)

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

© 2007-2026 bso.org | [Terms of Use](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

To make sure our email updates are delivered to your inbox, please add mybso@bso.org to your email address book. E-mail customerservice@bso.org. This message was sent to _t.e.s.t_@example.com by Boston Symphony Orchestra, 301 Massachusetts Avenue Symphony Hall, Boston, MA 02115, United States.

[View a web copy of this email](#)

Email Marketing by ActiveCampaign