



Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 28, 2016

**NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA POPS
Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke**

**BROADWAY STARS LAURA OSNES AND SANTINO FONTANA
JOIN NSO POPS FOR HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN IN
A HOLIDAY POPS! LED BY STEVEN REINEKE**

December 9 & 10, 2016

**Special Free Performance for Military Members and Their Families
on December 8**

(WASHINGTON)— Frequent collaborators, Broadway stars, and Tony Award® nominees **Laura Osnes** and **Santino Fontana** join the NSO Pops and Principal Pops Conductor Steven Reineke for the National Symphony Orchestra's annual *A Holiday Pops!* concerts on [Friday, December 9, at 8 p.m., and Saturday, December 10, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.](#) at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

This dynamic duo most notably performed together on Broadway in Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. This year with the NSO Pops they perform a program of festive seasonal classics and lead an audience sing-along of family favorites. Special guests also include the Washington Chorus, Julian Wachner, director, and possibly jolly old Saint Nick!

In addition, a special performance of *A Holiday Pops!, Home for the Holidays*, featuring the NSO Pops, Osnes, and Fontana—exclusively for service members and their families—takes place on [Thursday, December 8, at 7 p.m.](#) Part of the NSO's *Notes of Honor: NSO Salutes the Military* initiative, this performance is presented in collaboration with the USO of Metropolitan Washington, and is free and open to all active, veteran, prior service, and retired service members and their families; advance reservations are required. A valid military I.D. is required to redeem reserved tickets the evening of the performance.

ABOUT THE NSO POPS

Show-stopping pops concerts have been a staple of the National Symphony Orchestra's more than 80 years of performances. These concerts have ranged from performances on a barge on the Potomac River, to concerts on the Ellipse, and in National Parks around the greater Washington area. The 2000–2001 season saw the creation of the post of Principal Pops Conductor specifically for Broadway great Marvin Hamlisch, who held the position until the 2010–2011 season. The 2011–2012 season was the first with Steven Reineke as Principal Pops Conductor. NSO Pops performances take place at all the NSO's principal performance venues: Wolf Trap, the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, and in the NSO's primary home, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, with a subscription season featuring the Orchestra with guest artists from a variety of musical genres.

ABOUT LAURA OSNES

Laura Osnes was last seen on Broadway as the title role in Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Drama Desk Award; Tony®, Outer Critics Circle, Drama League, and Astaire Award nominations). She also starred in *Bonnie and Clyde* (Tony Award® nomination), creating the role at Asolo Repertory Theatre and La Jolla Playhouse (San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Award). She appeared as Hope Harcourt in the Tony Award®-winning revival of *Anything Goes* (Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Astaire Award nominations) and Nellie Forbush in Lincoln Center Theater's production of *South Pacific*, and made her Broadway debut as Sandy in the most recent revival of *Grease*. Other New York/regional credits include the Broadway-bound musical *The Bandstand* at Paper Mill Playhouse; *The Threepenny Opera* (Drama Desk Award nomination) at the Atlantic Theater Company; City Center Encores! productions of *The Band Wagon*, Randy Newman's *Faust*, and *Pipe Dream*; *The Sound of Music* in concert at Carnegie Hall; *Carousel* opposite Steven Pasquale at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and *Broadway: Three Generations* at the Kennedy Center. On television, she has been seen on the CBS series *Elementary*, in the HBO pilot *The Miraculous Year*, *Sondheim: The Birthday Concert at Avery Fisher Hall*, HBO's documentary *Six By Sondheim*, and the Kennedy Center Honors salutes to Barbara Cook (2011) and Dustin Hoffman (2012).

Osnes's many concerts and cabarets include performing with Michael Feinstein, the New York Philharmonic, The New York Pops, The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, The Boston Pops, and the Pasadena Pops, as well as appearing in such venues as Carnegie Hall, The Café Carlyle, 54 Below, Lincoln Center, NJPAC, The Smith Center in Las Vegas, and Minnesota's Orchestra Hall. In addition to being heard on several cast recordings, Osnes has two solo albums, *Dream A Little Dream: Live at The Café Carlyle* and *If I Tell You: The Songs of Maury Yeston*.

ABOUT SANTINO FONTANA

In 2005 as a member of the Essentials, **Santino Fontana** co-wrote the musical comedy *Perfect Harmony*, and originated the role of Philip Fellowes V. In 2006 he starred as Matt in the Off-Broadway revival of *The Fantasticks*. His Broadway debut was *Sunday in the Park with George* in 2007. Fontana originated the role of Tony in the Broadway production of *Billy Elliot* from October 1, 2008 to July 4, 2009. He was awarded the 2010 Drama Desk Award for Best Featured Actor in a Play for his work in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. He starred as Prince Topher in Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* on Broadway, for which he was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Leading Actor in a Musical. In 2013 he provided the voice of Prince Hans in the Walt Disney Animation Studios film *Frozen*.

In 2015 Fontana became the first guest artist to perform three times in the space of one year with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. He also joined the cast of the CW musical dramedy *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* that same year, starring alongside Rachel Bloom.

Complete concert details follow:

Thursday, December 8, 2016, at 7 p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Notes of Honor: NSO Salutes the Military

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Steven Reineke, conductor

Laura Osnes, vocalist

Santino Fontana, vocalist

The Washington Chorus, Julian Wachner, director

Home for the Holidays

Free and open to all active, veteran, prior service, and retired service members and their families; advance reservations are required. A valid military I.D. is required to redeem reserved tickets the evening of the performance.

Friday, December 9, 2016, at 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 10, 2016, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Steven Reineke, conductor

Laura Osnes, vocalist

Santino Fontana, vocalist

The Washington Chorus, Julian Wachner, director

A Holiday Pops!

Tickets: \$24-\$99.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are available online at kennedy-center.org, in person at the Kennedy Center Box Office, and by calling (202) 467-4600 or (800) 444-1324.

For *Home for the Holidays*, reservations are required in advance; valid military I.D. is required to pick up reserved tickets. Visit kennedy-center.org for more details.

FUNDING CREDITS:

David and Alice Rubenstein are the Presenting Underwriters of the NSO.

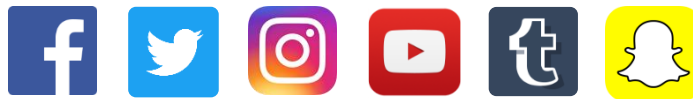
AARP is the Presenting Sponsor of the 2016-2017 NSO Pops Season.

Generous support for *Notes of Honor: NSO Salutes the Military* is provided by PenFed.

Patrons 30 and under and active-duty members of the military are invited to join the Kennedy Center's *MyTix* program for special discount offers and chances to win free tickets. For more information, visit kennedy-center.org/mytix

2016-2017 NSO POPS SCHEDULE

Artist	Dates
Special: Diana Ross Emil de Cou, conductor	December 1–3
Special: Snarky Puppy Jules Buckley, conductor	February 22, 2017
An Evening with Ledisi Damon Gupton, conductor Mellow Tones	February 24 and 25, 2017
<i>Sophisticated Ladies: 100 Years of Ella & Company</i> Steven Reineke, conductor Sy Smith Capathia Jenkins Montego Glover	March 24 and 25, 2017
Special: LeAnn Rimes Emil de Cou, conductor	April 28, 2017
Indigo Girls Steven Reineke, conductor	May 5 and 6, 2017
The Music of John Williams Steven Reineke, conductor Choral Arts Society of Washington	June 22–24, 2017



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TICKETS & INFORMATION:

(202) 467-4600; (800) 444-1324
www.kennedy-center.org