

# Atlanta Pops Orchestra

ATLANTA POPS  
ORCHESTRA

atlantapops.org

## Live . Current . Innovative.

The Atlanta Pops Orchestra is the premier provider of live orchestra music programming for the state of Georgia, the southeastern US, and beyond. With a rich history spanning seven decades, the Atlanta Pops Orchestra has captivated audiences throughout the world with a diverse repertoire of popular music.

Equally adept performing pop, jazz, folk, hip-hop, light classical, country and more, the Atlanta Pops Orchestra challenges the expectation of what an orchestra is capable of delivering.



In 1944 French immigrant Albert Coleman accepted the position of Musical Director for WSB Radio in Atlanta, Georgia and set about forming an orchestra that would include Atlanta's best musicians and be available for radio dates, public concerts and free performances for the benefit of young people and aspiring musicians. Albert established his first Atlanta Pops in 1945 and led the ensemble for 55 years.

His contributions won him the honor of membership in the Georgia Music Hall of Fame.

In 2002 former Atlanta Symphony Principal Trumpeter John Head became the Conductor and principal arranger for the Atlanta Pops, succeeding Albert Coleman. He conducted the orchestra in their 2004 tour of Taiwan, as well as concert performances throughout the southeast.

In 2010 Maestro Head was succeeded by current Conductor and Musical Director Dr. Jason D. Altieri, an accomplished conductor of symphony, opera and pops programs.



## On Record:



The Atlanta Pops Orchestra has released a number of recordings over the years, the most recent being 2015's "In The Spirit: A Celebration of the Holidays." A collaborative effort with John Driskell Hopkins, a founding member of three-time GRAMMY winning and multi-platinum group Zac Brown Band, the Christmas recording showcased a sound firmly rooted in tradition, but distinctively modern. Featuring brand new arrangements by Wes Funderburk, the album included guest appearances by singer Laura Bell Bundy, legendary folk duo Indigo Girls and award-winning bluegrass group Balsam Range. The album was well received by fans and critics alike, serving to showcase the versatility of the orchestra in the recording studio.

## Collaborative:

To mark to the 70th Anniversary of the orchestra, efforts were made in 2015 to reconnect the orchestra to the vibrant energy of the present-day collaborative Atlanta music scene. A two night engagement at Oglethopre University brought together a diverse group of Atlanta superstars, representing the diverse sounds of the city. Guest artists included former Atlanta Symphony and Henry Mancini trumpeter Cecil Welch, pianist Brent Runnels, blues guitarist Michelle Malone, hip-hop trailblazers Arrested

Development, beatbox protégé Heaven Beatbox, jazz trumpeter Joe Gransden, singer Chris Wright (performing a song written by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal), world-fusion duo Montana Skies and Americana singer-songwriter Levi Lowrey. Entitled "Bringing Together the Past and the Present," the concerts have served as a springboard for the orchestra's current-day endeavors.



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