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FILM MUSIC IN CONCERT

*The Pioneering Role of
the Boston Pops Orchestra*

Emilio Audissino
Linnaeus University



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Emilio Audissino
Linnaeus University

Author for correspondence: Emilio Audissino, emilio.audissino@lnu.se

Abstract: The Boston Pops Orchestra was the first orchestra of its kind in the USA: founded in 1885 from the ranks of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, its remit was to offer concerts of light symphonic music. Over the years, and in particular during the fifty-year tenure of its most famous conductor, Arthur Fiedler, the Pops established itself as the premier US orchestra, specialising in bridging the fields of 'art music' and 'popular music'. When the Hollywood composer John Williams was assigned the conductorship of the orchestra in 1980, he energetically advocated for the inclusion of film-music repertoire, changing Fiedler's approach significantly. This Element offers a historical survey of the pioneering agency that the Boston Pops had under Williams's tenure in the legitimisation of film music as a viable repertoire for concert programmes. The case study is complemented with more general discussions on the aesthetic of film music in concert.

Keywords: film-music concerts, Boston Pops Orchestra, Conductor John Williams, Cine-concerts, prejudices against film music

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Contents

1 Introduction	1
2 Film Music and Aesthetic Prejudice	4
3 Film Music: from the Screens to the Concert Stages	9
4 The Boston Pops and Popular Music	16
5 The Boston Pops and Film Music	28
6 The Popsgate of '84	44
7 The Boston Pops and Multimedia	51
8 Film Music after Williams's Tenure	58
9 Closing Remarks	65
References	71