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**PHILADELPHIA POPS PLAY ANNUAL POPS ON INDEPENDENCE CONCERT**  
*Sunoco Welcome America! To Feature Peter Nero & The Philly POPS And*  
*The Real-Life Wedding Of Ben Franklin And Betsy Ross Re-enactors in Free Event*

**PHILADELPHIA, June 9, 2008** – Some things just belong together—like picnics, the Philly POPS and Independence Day. They all come together on Thursday, July 3, 2008 during the *POPS on Independence* concert, a newer tradition that has become a *Sunoco Welcome America!* fan favorite. The nine-day Fourth of July festival celebrates America’s birthday in America’s birthplace, June 28 through July 6, 2008.

It doesn’t get much better than rolling out a blanket, breaking open a picnic basket and settling in for an evening of alfresco entertainment with Peter Nero & the Philly POPS performing in the shadows of **Independence Hall**. Under the direction of the two-time Grammy Award-winning maestro, the POPS and the Voices of the POPS will delight audiences with a playful blend of patriotic tunes, popular classics and new favorites. And none other than Thomas Jefferson will make an appearance to read the powerful words he wrote in the *Declaration of Independence*.

Fans will want to arrive early so they don’t miss a surprise addition to this year’s *POPS on Independence* concert. Immediately preceding the concert, Peter Nero & the Philly POPS will strike up the processional for the real-life wedding of the city’s premier Ben Franklin and Betsy Ross re-enactors. Ralph Archbold (Franklin) and Linda Wilde (Ross) will be married by Mayor Michael A. Nutter as part of the evening’s festivities and following the couple’s vows, the POPS will bounce right into the repertoire that has earned them international awards, recognition and loyal fans.

Music lovers can bring their own folding chairs or arrive early for chair seating that is first come, first served. Picnickers who are in a rush can pick up a snack or light dinner at **Independence Al Fresco**, the new outdoor café at the **Independence Visitor Center**.

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Visitors celebrating America's birthday in its birthplace can take advantage of the **Philly's More Summer Fun Hotel Package**, which pairs a two-night hotel stay with a \$50 gift card from American Express. The package is available at more than 30 hotels and is bookable online at [www.gophila.com/summerfun](http://www.gophila.com/summerfun).

For more information about this event and for a look at the full nine-day schedule, visit [www.americasbirthday.com](http://www.americasbirthday.com).

*POPS on Independence* is made possible through the support of Independence National Historical Park; Historic Philadelphia, Inc.; Independence Visitor Center Corporation; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; City of Philadelphia; Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation; and *Sunoco Welcome America!*.

*Sunoco Welcome America!* is a multi-day festival that celebrates America's birthday in America's birthplace and is produced by *Welcome America, Inc.*

The Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation (GPTMC) makes Philadelphia and The Countryside® a premier destination through marketing and image building that increases business and promotes the region's vitality. For more information about travel to Philadelphia, visit [www.gophila.com](http://www.gophila.com) or call the Independence Visitor Center, located in Independence National Historical Park, at (800) 537-7676.

*Note to Editors: For high-resolution photos of Greater Philadelphia, visit the photo gallery of [www.gophila.com/pressroom](http://www.gophila.com/pressroom).*