

Sounds of summer for Boston Pops

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Actress Angie Dickinson takes to the stage as the guest conductor for the 24th annual Pops by the Sea concert.

Cape Cod Times/Merrily Lunsford

By **ROBERT GOLD**
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HYANNIS — Jim and Clare Custodio showed they were serious about having fun.

The Boston couple, who have a second home in Sandwich, decided to attend last night's summer show by the Boston Pops Orchestra. So, they showed up at 2:30 p.m. with their folding chairs, camped out underneath a large tree in the middle of the village green and waited.

Clare said they passed the time "people watching." Jim said the 2½-hour wait would be worth it.

"As long as we can hear it," he said as the musicians tuned up before the 24th annual Pops by the Sea concert.

About 15,000 people joined the party, cramming the village green. Crowds lined up as far as the sidewalk on Main Street to hear the mix of medleys.

Yesterday's performance featured patriotic tunes and songs celebrating the heritage of baseball.

When the orchestra belted out Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline," Red Sox faithful quickly jumped in with a wave of hand claps and sing-alongs.

The crowd kept close attention as actor Jeremiah Kissel, donning a Red Sox cap, performed "Casey at the Bat" with the orchestra backing him.

Actress Angie Dickinson took her turn as the show's guest conductor. Previous guest conductors included Regis Philbin, Julia Child and Mike Wallace.

"I'm so glad you're dry," Dickinson told the crowd, as rain threatened to break loose but never did.

She crisply directed the orchestra in "Strike Up the Band."

Lara Lowe showed up for the second half of the two-hour performance. Standing on the Main Street sidewalk, the Hyannis woman said it was her first time at the concert.

"It's nice, and very orderly," Lowe said.

Besides the music, seeing the large crowd on the Village Green left her impressed.

"It's amazing," she said.

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