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FOUR MEMBERS OF BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY WIN PLACES IN THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HONORS ORCHESTRA

(BOSTON - Feb. 11, 2008) Four members of The Boston Youth Symphony (BYS), the premier ensemble of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO), have earned places in the highly competitive National High School Honors Orchestra, which will perform at the National Orchestra Festival in Albuquerque, New Mexico on Feb. 29, 2008. The competition is organized by the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). These students received a partial scholarship from the Massachusetts chapter of ASTA to attend the performance. Approximately 50 Massachusetts students underwent a rigorous audition process, and only seven were selected to represent the state in the 112-member orchestra. The four BYSO students who earned spots are listed below.

Stephen Chang, 17, a senior from Lexington who plays viola.

Lydia Ding, 16, a junior from Lexington who plays violin.

Emily Eckart, 17, a senior from Norton, who plays horn.

Evan Perry, 16, a senior from Somerset who plays viola.

These musicians will appear in upcoming BYS performances locally as the BYSO continues its 50th Anniversary Season. For more information visit www.BYSOweb.org.

Sunday March 9, 3 pm Symphony Hall, featuring Richard Stoltzman, *clarinet*

Sunday, May 18, 3 pm Symphony Hall featuring Yo-Yo Ma, *cello*

Sunday June 15, 3 pm Sanders Theatre at Harvard, featuring a world premiere commission by Robert Beaser

About Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras

Since its inception at Boston University 50 years ago, the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (formerly the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras or GBYSO) continues to achieve the highest artistic standards, and remains committed to musical excellence. Today, the BYSO, under the artistic direction of Federico Cortese, is widely regarded as one of the country's finest youth orchestras and is recognized nationally as a model music and arts education organization.

The BYSO receives generous support from JPMorgan Chase Foundation, its 50th Anniversary Season sponsor, as well as Boston University's College of Fine Arts, individual donors and Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC). According to the selection criteria used in MCC's three-year granting cycle, the BYSO was ranked first among all orchestras in the Commonwealth for its quality, community outreach and fiscal and administrative management. The March 9 performance is presented in association with Celebrity Series of Boston as part of Boston Marquee, which is sponsored in part by Talbots Charitable Foundation.

JPMorgan Chase

The BYSO 50th Anniversary Season is made possible in part by JPMorgan Chase Foundation. JPMorgan Chase Foundation's legacy of supporting education, the arts and diversity inspired the sponsorship of BYSO's 50th Anniversary season. JPMorgan Chase shares a common mission of a commitment to excellence, access to the arts and investing in and inspiring youth.

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