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**BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY TO CLOSE 50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON AT  
HOME, WITH ROBERT BEASER WORLD PREMIERE  
JUNE 15, 2008**

**BYS performs at Harvard's Sanders Theatre, before embarking on its 19th International  
Tour later in June**

(BOSTON - May 7, 2008) The Boston Youth Symphony (BYS) under the artistic leadership of Federico Cortese, performs the world premiere of Robert Beaser's *Evening Prayer*, and Haydn's Violin Concerto featuring Concerto Competition winner Lydia Ding, at Sanders Theatre at Harvard University on Sunday, June 15 at 3 p.m. This will be the final Boston-area concert in the BYSO's 50th Anniversary Season. The organization commissioned Beaser, a BYSO alumnus and Professor and Chairman of the Composition Department at Julliard, to compose the piece in celebration of its 50th anniversary season.

Tickets are \$25 and \$30, and discounted group, student and senior tickets are available; call the Sanders Theatre Box Office at (617) 496-2222. Free parking is available at the nearby Broadway Garage. Visit [www.BYSOweb.org](http://www.BYSOweb.org) for more information.

**Boston Youth Symphony**

Federico Cortese, *Conductor*

HAYDN Violin Concerto in G Major  
Lydia Ding, Concerto Competition Winner  
BEASER *Evening Prayer* - World Premiere  
BERNSTEIN *Candide*

BYS is the most advanced of the four orchestras that comprise the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO). This 120-member ensemble is made up of students grades seven through 12 from all over New England. BYS performs a wide range of demanding orchestral repertoire, conducted by Mr. Cortese.

The performance will be a homecoming of sorts for composer Robert Beaser (b. 1954, Boston), who has emerged as one of the most accomplished, creative musicians of his generation. Since

1982, when the *New York Times* wrote that he possessed a “lyrical gift comparable to that of the late Samuel Barber,” his music has won international acclaim for its balance between dramatic sweep and architectural clarity. He is often cited as an important figure among the “New Tonalists” -- composers who are adopting new tonal grammar to their own uses -- and through a wide range of media, has established his own language as a synthesis of Western tradition and American vernacular.

According to Beaser, who is a BYSO alumnus from the class of 1972, "The BYSO is the first orchestra I ever played in, and through it I was introduced to music of the likes of Penderecki, Hindemith, Stravinsky, Kodály and Lutoslawski. With *Evening Prayer*, I have chosen to give back to this orchestra a piece with the weight and seriousness of purpose of the experience that shaped me as an aspiring musician some 35 years ago. The music is challenging, but these are challenging times, and I can think of no better group of young people to ask to rise to the occasion."

A junior at Lexington High School, Lydia Ding has been playing violin since she was four. She has been studying with Samuil Kreynes, since 2000. As winner of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras' 2007 Concerto Competition, she will perform Haydn's Violin Concerto No. 4 in G Major with the orchestra for this program, and during the BYSO's international tour. She also won first place in New England String Ensemble's (NESE) 12th Annual NESE String Competition and will perform with them later this year. In 2006, she was one of two winners of the Metrowest Symphony Orchestra's Young Artist competition. In 2004, she performed "Prelude and Allegro" by Kreisler at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall as a winner of the American Fine Arts Festival. Ding has been a member of BYSO for seven years.

Later in June, the 120 BYSO musicians embark on the BYSO's 19th international tour to Germany and the Czech Republic, where they will perform by invitation at Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Germany, one of the finest concert halls in the world.

The June 15, 2008, concert will also feature performances by two other Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras.

### **Repertory Orchestra**

Joel Bard, Conductor

WAGNER      Die Meistersinger (excerpts from Act III)

The Repertory Orchestra is an advanced, full symphonic orchestra composed of 95 players of excellent technical and musical ability. Repertory Orchestra has performed in some of Boston's most prestigious venues including Symphony Hall, Sanders Theatre at Harvard University, Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory and the Tsai Performance Center at Boston University. During the season, all members participate in one of two chamber orchestras, Repertory Sinfonietta and Repertory Camerata. There they explore music of the classical period, including great works by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. By studying such repertoire as part of these chamber orchestras, Repertory Orchestra members develop specific techniques of ensemble playing and musical phrasing to a degree they may not otherwise within the larger orchestra.

### **Junior Repertory Orchestra**

Adrian Slywotsky, Conductor

MENDELSSOHN      Athalia, op. 76 Overture

JRO has grown steadily from a small string orchestra to a full symphonic ensemble made up of over 90 members. Members receive group and individual coaching, enabling them to build solid, fundamental technical and musical skills. JRO performs five times during the year at several venues throughout the Boston area, including Symphony Hall, Boston University's Tsai Performance Center and Sanders Theatre at Harvard University.

### **Federico Cortese**

Federico Cortese assumed the post of Music Director of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras in 1999. He has conducted throughout the United States, Australia and Europe. He joined the New England String Ensemble as Conductor in 2005 and was named Music Director in 2006. From 1998-2002, he served as Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra under Seiji Ozawa. In addition to his annual scheduled concerts, Mr. Cortese led the Boston Symphony several times in Symphony Hall and at Tanglewood, most notably performing Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* and Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. Mr. Cortese has conducted several prominent symphony orchestras, including Atlanta, Dallas, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony and Oslo Philharmonic. Opera engagements have included Maggio Musicale in Florence, the Spoleto Festival in Italy and the United States, the Boston Lyric Opera, the Saint Louis Opera, the Finnish National Opera, Opera Australia, and the Washington Opera. Mr. Cortese has been music coordinator and associate conductor of the Spoleto Festival in Italy. He also served as Assistant Conductor to Robert Spano at the Brooklyn Philharmonic and to Daniele Gatti at the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome. Mr. Cortese studied composition and conducting at the Conservatorio di Santa Cecilia in Rome and subsequently studied at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna. In addition, he has been a conducting fellow at the

Tanglewood Music Center. Mr. Cortese also studied literature and humanities and holds a law degree from La Sapienza University in Rome.

### **Robert Beaser**

Born in Boston, Beaser studied literature, political philosophy and music at Yale College, graduating *summa cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa* in 1976. He went on to earn his Master of Music, M.M.A. and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the Yale School of Music. His principal composition teachers have included Jacob Druckman, Earle Brown, Toru Takemitsu, Arnold Franchetti, Yehudi Wyner and Goffredo Petrassi. In addition, he studied conducting with Otto-Werner Mueller and William Steinberg at Yale, and composition with Betsy Jolas on a Crofts Fellowship at Tanglewood in 1976. From 1978-1990 he served as co-Music Director and Conductor of the innovative contemporary chamber ensemble *Musical Elements* at the 92<sup>nd</sup> street Y, bringing premieres of over two hundred works to Manhattan. From 1988-1993 he was the Meet the Composer/Composer-in-Residence with the *American Composers Orchestra* at Carnegie Hall, and has served as the ACO's artistic advisor until January 2001, when he assumed the role of Artistic Director. Since 1993, he has been Professor and Chairman of the Composition Department at the Juilliard School in New York. In 2004 he was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

### **About Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras**

Since its inception at BU fifty 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 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.

### **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. To

encourage youth engagement in and access to the arts, JPMorgan Chase & Co. has subsidized 50 Gala concert tickets for distribution community groups in the Boston area; individual and corporate sponsors have subsidized an additional 100.

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