



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS: Charlotte Symphony
Meg Whalen, Director of Public Relations
704-714-5114, megw@charlottesymphony.org

Fidelity Investments
Corporate Communications
617-563-5800

TWO CMS SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE \$20,000 WORTH OF NEW INSTRUMENTS AS PART OF FIDELITY FUTURESTAGE[®] MUSIC PROGRAM

Fidelity Investments[®] and the Charlotte Symphony partner to strengthen music education in Charlotte-Mecklenburg

CHARLOTTE, June 30, 2009 – Fidelity Investments[®] and the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra (CSO) are collaborating to bring a new music education initiative to Charlotte: *Fidelity FutureStage[®]*, designed by Fidelity to support and strengthen underserved music programs in local public schools and to encourage student musicians to explore and develop their individual talents.

Two Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools have been selected to participate in the program: Northwest School of the Arts and Piedmont Open IB Middle School. Representatives from each school were honored at the CSO's Summer Pops concert at Symphony Park, South Park on Sunday night, June 28.

To celebrate the program kickoff, Fidelity and the CSO announced the donation of new musical instruments to the two schools, collectively valued at more than \$20,000. Two of the instruments – a string bass and a cello – were presented to the schools at the Summer Pops concert. The other instruments will be delivered to Northwest School of the Arts and Piedmont Middle School early this fall to start the school year.

“Fidelity is excited to bring the *Fidelity FutureStage* music program to Charlotte, especially at a time when the need to support the arts in our local schools is so prevalent. By providing these new instruments, we hope more students will have the opportunity to explore their interests in music,” said Dick Fleischmann, vice president and branch manager of Fidelity Investments' Charlotte Investor Center.

- more -

“Learning to play an instrument and participating in school music programs can help young people build valuable skills that will serve them well, not just performing onstage, but throughout future stages of life.”

Fidelity and the CSO worked with The Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing musical instruments to the most underserved programs, to evaluate and identify the needs of each school, and to facilitate the purchase of the new instruments.

Northwest School of the Arts and Piedmont Open IB Middle School were selected to participate in the new program following careful evaluation of the schools’ music education needs and administrative dedication to their programs. Both schools have passionate, committed music educators in place to support the *Fidelity FutureStage* initiatives and foster well-rounded students with appreciation of the arts.

“Fidelity FutureStage is a wonderful program that directly enhances the lives of children across the country,” said CSO Executive Director Jonathan Martin. “It is exciting that students right here in Charlotte will now benefit from this outstanding initiative. Fidelity Investments has been a generous supporter of the Charlotte Symphony for years, and we are delighted to partner with Fidelity in this new initiative as we continue our longstanding commitment to serving local schoolchildren.”

“The FutureStage initiative and collaboration with the Charlotte Symphony will have lasting impact for students at Piedmont Open IB Middle School and Northwest School of the Arts,” said Mark Probst, Performing Arts Specialist for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. “I certainly commend Fidelity Investments for their ability to recognize how music and the arts are essential for professional success and personal fulfillment.”

During the 2009-10 school year, students at the two *Fidelity FutureStage* schools will also benefit from the CSO’s education program, which brings Symphony musicians and teaching artists into classrooms throughout the year to provide special curriculum-based music instruction. Fidelity FutureStage will also coordinate field trips for students to attend Symphony concerts – for many, their first time experiencing a professional orchestra performance.

Fidelity FutureStage was developed by Fidelity Investments to support music and other arts education programs in local communities. The program grew from the company's long-standing commitment to arts and culture including its support of many of the nation's leading symphonies, Broadway productions and community arts organizations. Fidelity launched the *Fidelity FutureStage* theater education program in New York City during the 2006-07 school-year and following that success, turned its efforts to developing a complementary music initiative. *Fidelity FutureStage* music programs are underway in Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Raleigh-Durham and now Charlotte.

For more information about Fidelity FutureStage, visit FutureStage.com.

About Fidelity Investments

Fidelity Investments is one of the world's largest providers of financial services, with custodied assets of \$2.8 trillion, including managed assets of over \$1.3 trillion as of May 31, 2009. Fidelity offers investment management, retirement planning, brokerage, and human resources and benefits outsourcing services to over 20 million individuals and institutions as well as through 5,000 financial intermediary firms. The firm is the largest mutual fund company in the United States, the No. 1 provider of workplace retirement savings plans, the largest mutual fund supermarket and a leading online brokerage firm. Fidelity maintains two area investor centers, in Durham and Charlotte. For more information about Fidelity Investments, visit www.fidelity.com. North Carolina employment opportunities can be viewed at www.nc.fidelitycareers.com.

About the Charlotte Symphony

The Charlotte Symphony is the largest performing arts organization in the central Carolinas, employing 64 full-time musicians and giving more than 100 performances each year. The CSO has provided educational opportunities for area school children since 1954. In 2008-2009, the CSO served nearly 30,000 students in programs ranging from education concerts for fourth and fifth-grade children to intensive in-school music projects in local elementary, middle, and high schools, including Northwest School of the Arts and Piedmont Open IB Middle School. For more information, visit www.charlottesymphony.org.

###

Fidelity Investments, the Fidelity Pyramid Design and *Fidelity FutureStage* are registered service marks of FMR LLC.

526603.1