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**FIDELITY FUTURESTAGE® “CLASS OF 2010” MUSIC COMPETITION WINNERS
KICK OFF FIRST OF FOUR CONCERT EVENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY
TONIGHT AT SYMPHONY HALL IN BOSTON**

Fidelity FutureStage competition winners from public high schools in Boston, Chicago, Houston and Los Angeles to perform this May and June onstage with the Boston Pops, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony and Los Angeles Philharmonic

BOSTON, May 26, 2010 – Tonight, Fidelity Investments® and the Boston Pops are proud to present the debut of the 2010 Fidelity FutureStage® Music Competition winners from Boston – four musical acts made up Boston Public High School students performing in concert with the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall at 8:00pm. The competition is part of Fidelity FutureStage, a national arts education initiative created by Fidelity Investments in 2006 to support middle and high school students in public schools and community programs.

The ten students performing Wednesday night are part of the “Fidelity FutureStage Class of 2010,” joining winning student performers selected through FutureStage Music Competitions also held this spring in Chicago and Houston. Wednesday’s concert in Boston is the first of four concerts across the country featuring FutureStage student musician winners.

In Chicago, Chicago Public School winners of the FutureStage Music Competition will perform as part of a Chicago Symphony Orchestra concert on June 7 at Symphony Center, and Houston Public School student winners will perform at Miller Outdoor Theatre alongside the Houston Symphony on June 30. Fidelity will host a FutureStage Music Competition in Los Angeles this fall, where students will compete for the opportunity to perform with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In the meantime, a 90-member vocal and instrumental ensemble from Fidelity FutureStage School Renaissance Arts Academy will perform as part of Opening Night at the Hollywood Bowl on June 18.

“Fidelity created the FutureStage program to provide more opportunities for students to participate in the arts and encourage them to explore and share their talents,” said Jennifer K. Brown, executive vice president at Fidelity. “The winners of the 2010 Fidelity FutureStage Music Competitions represent some of the great talent in our classrooms in all four of these cities, and we look forward to all of their performances.”

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To select the four student acts in Boston, Fidelity Investments and the Boston Pops conducted a city-wide search for Boston and Cambridge public high school musicians and vocalists. After a review of submitted audition tapes, finalists were called back to audition on stage at Symphony Hall before an expert panel of judges led by the Boston Pops and First Night Boston.

The 2010 Boston winners include **vocalist LaWanda Hector** (senior from Roland Hayes School of Music), **erhu player Muhan Zhang** (senior at Boston Latin School), **string ensemble Copley Place** also from Boston Latin School (featuring senior violinists **Annie Osborne** and **Sherry Wu**, senior cellist **Christopher Nguyen**, and sophomore banjo player **Ian Haines**), and the **Charlie Brown Blues Band** from Boston Arts Academy (featuring senior percussionist **Gustavo Hernandez**, junior pianist **Nicolas Perez**, junior bassist **Max Ridley**, and junior saxophone player **Gregory Groover Jr.**). Their performances will represent musical styles that range from jazz to bluegrass to international.

Similar judging panels from the Chicago Symphony and Houston Symphony helped Fidelity choose the 2010 FutureStage Competition winners in their cities.

Chicago FutureStage winners performing on June 7 include two choral groups – the 45-member **Northside College Preparatory High School Concert Choir** (under the direction of Nythia Rivera, Director of Choral Ensembles) and the 39-member **Walter Payton College Prep High School Concert Choir** (under the direction of Jeffery Weaver, Music Department Chair) – as well as the **Lincoln Park Saxophone Quartet** (featuring senior **Nathan Crawford**, juniors **Gerardo Fernandez** and **Grzegorz Piekosz**, and sophomore **Manuel Canchola**), and **Whitney M. Young Magnet High School Percussion Ensemble** (featuring senior **Lucia Leon**, sophomores **Marcelina Suchocka** and **Thaddeus Tukes**, and freshman **Shuya Gong**).

In Houston, the June 30 concert at Miller Outdoor Theatre will feature **vocalist Jack Delac** (junior from Clear Lake High School), **saxophone soloist Alan Gonzalez** (senior from FutureStage school Waltrip High School, Waltrip High School sophomore **marimba players Massie Wingard** and **Megan Miller**, and **the Revel Trio** from Bellaire High School (comprised of brothers freshman pianist **Ben Liu**, and senior violinist **Terrence Liu**, and senior cellist **Joseph Ong**).

In all three cities, the student winners have been preparing for their upcoming concerts by working with professional coaches including musicians from the symphonies in each city. For more about the Fidelity FutureStage program, the 2010 Music Competitions and the concerts in each city, visit www.futurestage.com.

About Fidelity FutureStage: Resources, Experiences and Mentorship

Fidelity FutureStage was created by Fidelity Investments to support music and other arts education programs in local schools and 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.

Today, working with some of the world's most recognized orchestras, Fidelity FutureStage provides unique educational opportunities for students to explore and expand their interests in music, including: the donation of new musical instruments, field trips to symphony rehearsals and concerts, classroom workshops by symphony musicians, professional mentoring and opportunities for student ensembles to perform in public forums. Fidelity FutureStage music programs are underway in Boston, Chicago, Houston and Los Angeles.

Since 2006, Fidelity FutureStage music and theater programs have touched more than 24,000 students representing 163 public schools in 27 cities across the country. To date, the program has donated more than 1,200 new instruments valued at over \$1.4 million.

About Fidelity Investments

Fidelity Investments is one of the world's largest providers of financial services, with assets under administration of \$3.4 trillion, including managed assets of \$1.5 trillion, as of April 30, 2010. Founded in 1946, the firm is a leading provider of investment management, retirement planning, portfolio guidance, brokerage, benefits outsourcing and many other financial products and services to more than 20 million individuals and institutions, as well as through 5,000 financial intermediary firms. For more information about Fidelity Investments, visit www.fidelity.com.

About the Boston Pops

Celebrating its 125th anniversary this spring, May 4-June 20, the Boston Pops reaches a landmark moment in a storied history that began with its founding in 1885. The Boston Pops Orchestra has distinguished itself as the founder of and leader in its genre, presenting the best of a wide variety of music from jazz to pop, indie rock to big band, film music to the great American songbook, and Broadway to classical. Though Arthur Fiedler's nearly 50-year tenure as Pops conductor (1930-1979) established the Boston Pops as a national icon, Conductor Laureate John Williams (1980-1993) and present-day conductor Keith Lockhart (1995 to present) have shepherded the orchestra through three decades of tumultuous change in the world of music. The Boston Pops, "America's Orchestra, performs for an audience of nearly 900,000 people annually in Boston, across the country and around the world, and reaches millions more through its recordings and television broadcasts. For more information, visit www.bostonpops.org.

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