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**“FIDELITY FUTURESTAGE® AT THE BOSTON POPS” COMPETITION
WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

Boston Public School Students Selected to Perform at May 20 Concert

BOSTON, May 6, 2009 -- Fidelity Investments® and the Boston Pops today announced the winners of “Fidelity FutureStage at the Boston Pops,” a city-wide competition for Boston Public School student musicians to perform with the Boston Pops on the stage of Symphony Hall on Wednesday, May 20.

The four winners, including both soloists and small ensembles, represent a range of musical styles spanning classical, jazz, blues, and pop. In anticipation of their Symphony Hall debut, the student musicians will work directly with Keith Lockhart and musicians of the Boston Pops, who will help them prepare for their performances on May 20. Fidelity FutureStage was developed by Fidelity Investments in 2006 to support music and other arts education programs in local communities, with school-year programs now underway in five cities throughout the country.

Winners of the “Fidelity FutureStage at the Boston Pops” contest:

- **AnJalique Perry** (Dorchester), a 17 year-old soprano from Roland Hayes School of Music will be performing *Miss Celie’s Blues* from the movie *The Color Purple* by Quincy Jones, Rod Temperton and Lionel Richie
- **Chris Middleton** (Dorchester), a 17 year-old pianist & vocalist from Boston Latin School will perform his own pop ballad, *Can’t be Gone Long*
- **The Underground Trio** from Boston Arts Academy, featuring:
 - Chris Juris (Boston), 18 year-old senior guitarist
 - Gustavo Hernandez (Roslindale), 17 year-old junior percussionist
 - Max Ridley (Jamaica Plain), 15 year-old sophomore bassistThe Underground Trio will perform *Windows* by Chick Corea.

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- **Grieg Quartet** from Boston Latin School, featuring:
 - B. Kim (Boston), 15 year old freshman violinist
 - Tadesh Inagaki (Jamaica Plain), 17 year-old junior violinist
 - Allyn Hayes McCourt (Jamaica Plain), 17 year-old junior violist
 - Christopher Nguyen (Roslindale), 17 year-old junior violinistThe Grieg Quartet will be performing Edvard Grieg's String Quartet No. 1 in G Minor

“It’s absolutely inspiring to see these young students from the Boston Public Schools bring such passion and dedication to their music-making, and to witness the powerful effect music has had on their lives,” said Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart. “Whether it is as performers or audience members, we hope their example, and wonderful programs like Fidelity FutureStage, will serve to inspire others to experience the endless pleasures the world of music has to offer.”

“The Fidelity FutureStage program was created to provide middle and high school students with unique experiences in the arts, including opportunities to learn from leading musicians and to showcase their own talents,” said Jennifer K. Brown, executive vice president at Fidelity. “This concert brings all of those elements together for one very special evening.”

To select the four student acts, Fidelity Investments and the Boston Pops conducted a city-wide search for Boston 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, the judging panel included: Dennis Alves, Director of Artistic Planning, Boston Pops; Lois Roach, First Night, Boston; Joyce Kulhawik, veteran arts and entertainment news anchor; Alex Alvear, IBA Arts and Culture Program Manager; Pat Hollenbeck, musician and arranger, Boston Pops; Susan Davenny Wyner, soprano and conductor.

In addition to showcasing these talented student musicians, the May 20 “Fidelity FutureStage at the Boston Pops” concert is also a tribute to one of the orchestra’s most beloved conductors and a strong supporter of youth music, the late Harry Ellis Dickson. For 44 years, Mr. Dickson served as assistant and associate conductor of the Boston Pops under Arthur Fiedler and John Williams and associate conductor

laureate under Keith Lockhart. Mr. Dickson was also responsible for bringing the tradition of the Youth Concerts back to Symphony Hall in 1959, after their initial introduction in the 1888-89 season; he continued conducting the concerts until 1995, when he was named Youth Concerts Conductor Laureate.

The May 20 Pops concert features a film tribute to the conductor, as well as many of Mr. Dickson's favorite music selections, including the beloved overture to Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* and Copland's powerful *Lincoln Portrait*. Michael Dukakis, former governor of Massachusetts and Mr. Dickson's son-in-law, is the work's narrator for this concert. Broadway star Ashley Brown contributes a set of popular songs, and the evening's finale is a lively *Sound of Music* Sing Along.

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. In addition to Boston, Fidelity FutureStage music programs are underway in Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles and North Carolina. The program provides opportunities for public school students to experience music and explore their own talents, providing new instruments, instruction and performance opportunities.

For more information about Fidelity FutureStage and the "Fidelity FutureStage at the Boston Pops" student winners, visit www.futurestage.com/bostonpops.

Tickets for "Fidelity FutureStage at the Boston Pops" on May 20 may be purchased online at www.bostonpops.org or by phone through SymphonyCharge at 617-266-1200 or 888-266-1200.

About Fidelity Investments

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MORE ABOUT THE FUTURESTAGE WINNERS:

ANJALIQUE PERRY, VOCALS : AnJalique, a junior at Roland Hayes, started singing alongside her grandmother in her church choir. “I can’t remember a time when I wasn’t singing.” Her grandmother’s love of gospel music and her mother’s training as a professional musician encouraged her interest. “My mom graduated from Berklee College of Music. She’s a powerhouse singer. I love to watch her perform. It’s the biggest compliment when people tell me that I sound like her.”

AnJalique’s top musical accomplishment is winning this opportunity to perform with the Boston Pops. She was afraid to audition, but her mother encouraged her to have fun with it. She says, “I still can’t believe I won!” In the future, she hopes to work as a professional musician and also put her love of math to good use by managing contracts, records and sales of other professional artists. She’s also working on her writing in hopes of writing her own music.

CHRIS MIDDLETON, PIANO AND VOCALS: Boston Latin School junior Chris Middleton has been around music his entire life. Chris’s parents are both musicians – his father is a vocalist, plays guitar and bass and is currently in the band Firefly. His mother, a vocalist and flutist, attended Berklee School of Music. In addition to playing various instruments and singing, Chris has composed more than 30 songs, with more in the works. “I need to compose as a way to express all the things that I’m constantly thinking about—it’s an outlet for me.”

Chris enjoys playing songs with lyrics that draw from life, including *Happy Ending* by Mika and *Make you Feel My Love* by Adele. Chris is inspired by Ben Folds’ skills and says, “I try to emulate him by taking risks and creating melodies.” He also admires The Beatles. “Every Beatles song has something unique. I try to come up with interesting chord progressions like they did.”

Chris credits his teacher, Will Fickes, for pushing him to work hard. Chris hopes to work as a professional singer/songwriter and study international relations and linguistics.

THE UNDERGROUND TRIO: The Underground Trio was formed in September 2008. After auditioning for ensembles at Boston Arts Academy, the group was formed by teacher Matt Clauhs. Members of the Underground Trio include: Chris Juris (guitar), Gustavo Hernandez (drums), and Max Ridley (bass).

CHRIS JURIS, GUITAR: Chris is a senior at Boston Arts Academy. His love of music started early. “When I was in elementary school, they invited the middle school band to play a concert for us. It was from that moment that I knew I wanted to be a musician. I was blown away.”

He started playing saxophone in the 4th grade and started playing guitar before freshman year. His family moved from New Jersey to Boston two years ago and he was thrilled to find Boston Arts Academy. He says, “Music is the main thing in my life.”

Chris recently won three awards at the Berklee High School Jazz Festival. He is heading to Berklee College of Music in the fall. Someday he hopes to tour the world, playing his own music - he’s already written six songs for the Underground Trio. He is excited to perform with the Boston Pops and is honored for the chance to work with conductor Keith Lockhart.

GUSTAVO HERNANDEZ, PERCUSSION: Gustavo, a junior from Boston Arts Academy, found his love of music when he was nine years old, while learning to play the piano. By 13, he found the guitar and his true passion, drums. He credits his father, Bernardo, a bass and guitar player and teacher at Berklee, his mother and his girlfriend as sources of encouragement. In the future, Gustavo hopes to double major in music performance and music education, so that he can perform and teach.

Gustavo is inspired by drummer/composer Brian Blade. “He creates a sound that is so different and incredible. He makes me want to find my own sound.” Gustavo loves playing jazz and Latin music and especially enjoys the creative energy of a live performance. Currently, he spends his Saturdays teaching music to kids at Lion of Judah Church. He is excited to take the stage with the Boston Pops at such an early age.

MAX RIDLEY, BASS: Max, a sophomore at Boston Arts Academy, started playing electric bass guitar in the 5th grade. “I got into the electric guitar because I wanted to be like Flea from the Red Hot Chili Peppers. My mom encouraged me to try the upright bass because she thought I could get more gigs.”

Max comes from a musical family as well. His father sang with the Boston Opera Company and his mother performed with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus at Symphony Hall. Max once performed outside Symphony Hall, but never expected to wind up on stage with the Boston Pops.

His biggest musical inspirations are Charles Mingus, Cachao Lopez, Esperanza Spalding and Edgar Myer. He hopes to have a career in music as a performer and a music teacher. “Music is my passion and something that I want to do for the rest of my life. When I play music, I get this feeling like it is what I was meant to do.”

GRIEG QUARTET: The Grieg Quartet formed to compete in this competition. Before auditions, they had only been playing together as a group for a few weeks. The group memorized their piece and performed it at the audition without sheet music. Members of Grieg Quartet include: B. Kim (violin), Tadesh Inagaki (violin), Allyn Hayes McCourt (viola), and Christopher Nguyen (cello).

B. KIM, VIOLIN: B., a freshman at Boston Latin, discovered classical music at just three years old. “I remember hearing Elgar’s *Salut D’Amour* and I asked my parents if I could learn to play. I liked the sound of the violin so I started there.” She joined the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra in the third grade. B. now spends about ten hours a week practicing her violin. “It’s such a great feeling when you’re able to express yourself through your music. There’s so much beauty in classical music.”

B. is excited for the opportunity to work with Keith Lockhart. “Everyone who plays and is aware of the music scene looks up to him. I had to audition for this. I’ve played at lots of concerts, but nothing as big as this!” B.’s other musical inspirations include Leonard Bernstein (who also went to Boston Latin) and Itzhak Perlman. B. credits her music teacher, John Holland, for helping her see things in new ways. B. thinks it is too early to tell where the future will take her, but she is thinking about studying music and literature, law or business.

TADESH INAGAKI, VIOLIN: Tadesh started playing violin when he was 10 years old, after seeing a performance by Ricardo Slevira. “I told my mom that I wanted to play the violin like him. She called Mr. Slevira and I started taking lessons with him.” Tadesh is still studying with Ricardo Slevira—a teacher at Boston Latin. His parents are very supportive of his playing.

Juggling a busy schedule of music, stage acting, and schoolwork, Tadesh finds solace in violin practice. “The violin has a very therapeutic quality and helps me clear my mind. Once I have worked through a piece and can play it proficiently, I like to take my mind off everything and just play. It’s really an escape for me.”

He’s considering Columbia or another big city school for college. While he wants to stay involved in music and theater, he plans to study Physics and English.

ALLYN HAYES McCOURT, VIOLA: Allyn, a junior at Boston Latin, started playing violin and singing in the second grade, studying with Loren Pearson. He picked up the viola during his first year at Boston Latin School. A few days prior to auditions, a space opened up in the Grieg Quartet. Allyn, who had considered entering the ‘Fidelity FutureStage at the Pops’ competition as a vocalist, jumped at the opportunity to join the group. “I felt like I was getting a second shot at this competition.”

Allyn’s currently working as the English music director at Our Lady of Lourdes and spends time learning piano and cello. He has also been performing musical theater since he was a young boy. His mother, a former Miss New Hampshire, won the talent award for her guitar and vocal performance. “I give her all the credit. She is very supportive of me.” In the future, Allyn plans to major in music with a focus on vocal performance. He’s considering the BU Opera program and New England Conservatory.

CHRISTOPHER NGUYEN, CELLO: Now a Boston Latin junior, Christopher started playing violin in the seventh grade, but switched to cello after seeing other students playing it. “For some reason, I just fell in love with it.” He loves the excitement of performing. He sees each performance as a chance to share his appreciation for classical music with the crowd.

He likes how the music community thrives on friendly competition with, he says, “a huge emphasis on the ‘friendly’ part.” He believes being with passionate musicians pushes him to perform at a higher level. In the future, Christopher is considering a music minor and hopes to join a college orchestra. He would also like to perform as part of an orchestra and teach lessons on the side.

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