



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contacts:

Elizabeth Hinckley, Rogers & Cowan, ehinckley@rogersandcowan.com, 310-854-8199

Fidelity Investments Media Relations, FidelityCorporateAffairs@fmr.com, 617-563-5800

Rachelle Roe, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, RoeR@csso.org, 312-294-3090

**FIDELITY FUTURESTAGE® LAUNCHES 2010 NATIONAL MUSIC PROGRAM IN CHICAGO WITH
ACTRESS JOAN CUSACK AND THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA,
AND EVENTS SIMULCAST FROM BOSTON, HOUSTON AND LOS ANGELES**

- Actress Joan Cusack helped Fidelity surprise hundreds of Chicago area high school students with special unveiling of more than \$100,000 worth of new instruments for their school music programs from Fidelity FutureStage
- 2010 Fidelity FutureStage Music Competition announced for top student musicians to perform with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Symphony Center in June
- Special guests Jamie Foxx and Dominic Monaghan participated via satellite from Los Angeles, Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart and Houston Symphony Orchestra Principal Pops Conductor Michael Krajewski from their home performance halls

CHICAGO, February 9, 2010 – Fidelity Investments® and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) today announced the kickoff of the 2010 Fidelity FutureStage® Music Program, part of a national initiative to support and strengthen public school arts programs and to provide unique educational opportunities for student musicians to explore and develop their individual talents.

The celebration event at Chicago's Kenwood Academy was part of a four-city simulcast, connecting more than 1,500 high school students via satellite from Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, Boston's Symphony Hall and the Houston Symphony's Jones Hall. **Award-winning actress and Chicago native Joan Cusack headlined local festivities featuring CSO President Deborah F. Rutter, student musicians of the Percussion Scholarship Group and their CSO mentor, Patricia Dash**, and additional performances and special guests from the other three cities, including event host Dominic Monaghan and Oscar-winning actor and musician Jamie Foxx from Los Angeles.

Highlights included the announcement of four Chicago public high schools selected to be part of the 2010 Fidelity FutureStage program: **Kenwood Academy, Jones College Prep, Lincoln Park High School and Pritzker College Prep**; details about the new Fidelity FutureStage Music Competition; and the grand finale of the day: the surprise unveiling of more than \$100,000 worth of new musical instruments for the four FutureStage schools – part of an overall donation by Fidelity to public school programs across the country valued in total over \$500,000.

“Fidelity FutureStage was created to support arts education programs in our public schools, and invest in the future of our students by providing opportunities to participate, experience and benefit from the arts both in and out of the classroom,” said Jim Hoffman, senior vice president and Chicago market manager at Fidelity. “Research shows that students participating in quality music education programs score an average of 20 percent higher on standardized tests and a combined 100 points more on the College Board SATs¹, and we’re happy to provide more opportunities that may help to influence these important student success measures.”

Connected to students in Boston, Houston and Los Angeles via satellite and visible to each other on large onstage projection screens, more than 400 Chicago students in the Kenwood audience showed off their city and school pride, and shared musical performances with their peers in the other three venues. As part of the program, local students of the Percussion Scholarship Group showed off their talents, performing under the watch of CSO mentor Patricia Dash. Orchestra President Deborah F. Rutter spoke about the importance of music education and introduced special guest Joan Cusack, who went on to share her experiences as a performer, and the importance of the arts and education in her life.

Details of the Fidelity FutureStage 2010 Music Competition in Chicago were also announced. Fidelity, the CSO and Chicago Public Schools will conduct a city-wide search for public school musicians and vocalists. Students who earn top scores in the Citywide Music Performance Festivals – conducted by the Office of Arts Education at Chicago Public Schools – will be invited to audition on stage at Symphony Center for the Fidelity FutureStage 2010 Music Competition. A panel of judges from the CSO Association will then select up to four student acts from the live audition to perform with the Chicago Symphony in a private concert event on June 7, 2010 at Symphony Center. More details about the competition can be found at www.futurestage.com.

For the program’s grand finale, Joan Cusack, along with Jamie Foxx and Dominic Monaghan from Los Angeles, Keith Lockhart from Boston and Michael Krajewski from Houston, led the Kenwood audience to the big surprise of the day: the announcement and unveiling of more than \$500,000 worth of new musical instruments donated by Fidelity. Video split screens allowed the students to share their excitement with students in Boston, Houston and Los Angeles as cameras showed dozens of new instruments being revealed simultaneously in each venue.

Fidelity’s donation in Chicago is made up of approximately \$25,000 worth of much-needed new instruments for each of the four FutureStage schools – Kenwood Academy, Jones College Prep, Lincoln Park High School and Pritzker College Prep. The thrilled students and their teachers accepted dozens of new instruments, ranging from violins, cellos, clarinets and French horns, to saxophones, tubas, timpani and concert chimes – all specifically requested by their respective school music programs.

Schools in Los Angeles, Boston and Houston received similar donations, and an additional \$100,000 worth of new instruments is being donated to other school programs in need around the country, rounding out Fidelity’s total donation.

Fidelity works with The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation (MHOF) to select schools for the Fidelity FutureStage program. MHOF is a national non-profit organization dedicated to bringing musical instruments to under-funded school and community programs, and inspiring creativity and expression through music participation. The Foundation evaluates the instrumental needs of each school music program and then facilitates the purchase and delivery of the instruments on behalf of Fidelity FutureStage.

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. 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.

In Chicago, the Merit School of Music provides professional coaching for FutureStage students as they prepare to take part in the 2010 Fidelity FutureStage music competition and to reach other performance goals.

Since 2006, Fidelity FutureStage music and theater programs have touched more than 20,000 students representing over 100 schools in 26 cities across the country. To date, the program has donated more than 1,200 new instruments valued at over \$1.35 million. For more about Fidelity FutureStage, visit www.futurestage.com.

About Fidelity Investments

Fidelity Investments is one of the world's largest providers of financial services, with assets under administration of over \$3.2 trillion, including managed assets of \$1.5 trillion as of December 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, a leading online brokerage firm and one of the largest providers of custody and clearing services to financial professionals. For more information about Fidelity Investments, visit www.fidelity.com.

About the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of today's leading orchestras. Live performances by the CSO are much in demand at home and in the most prestigious musical venues around the world. In collaboration with preeminent conductors and guest artists on the international music scene, the CSO performs well over 120 concerts each year at its downtown home, Symphony Center, and at the Ravinia Festival on Chicago's North Shore, where it is in residence each summer. With the launch of its new Institute for Learning, Access and Training, the CSO will engage more than 150,000 Chicago-area residents annually. Music lovers outside Chicago enjoy the sounds of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra not only through its BP Chicago Symphony Orchestra Radio Broadcast Series and best-selling recordings on its new highly acclaimed in-house record label CSO Resound, but also through frequent sold-out tour performances in the United States and around the globe. Since 1971, the CSO has undertaken 36 overseas tours: 27 to Europe, six to the Far East, as well as one each to Russia, Australia and South America. For more information about the CSO, visit www.cso.org.

About The Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation

Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation supports music education and its many benefits by donating musical instruments to underserved schools, community and individual students nationwide. The organization — inspired by the 1995 motion picture, Mr. Holland's Opus — was founded by Michael Kamen, who composed the music for that movie and countless others. In the last ten years, new and refurbished instruments with a value of well over \$7 million have been donated to 920 school and community music programs and soloists across the country. For more about the Foundation, visit www.mhopus.org.

About Merit School of Music

For 30 years, Merit School of Music has been “making music ... building lives” in Chicago. At its Joy Faith Knapp Music Center, 38 S. Peoria St., in the West Loop, Merit offers a full range of music programming taught by its esteemed faculty, including early childhood classes; beginning, intermediate and advanced instrumental and vocal group instruction; private lessons; ensembles; and music theory and composition. Merit also provides musical instruction to about 5,100 students at 70 sites around Chicago and Northwest Indiana through its offsite programs, making Merit one of the largest community music schools in the country. For more about Merit School of Music, visit www.meritmusic.org.

#

*Fidelity FutureStage is a community arts education initiative of Fidelity Investments.
Fidelity Investments and Fidelity FutureStage are registered service marks of FMR LLC.
All other registered marks appearing herein are the property of their respective owners.*

503704

©2010 FMR LLC. All rights reserved.

¹ *The Harris Poll*® #112, November 12, 2007, <http://www.menc.org/resources/view/harris-poll-links-music-education-to-higher-incomes>