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FIDELITY FUTURESTAGE® AWARDS
TO BE PRESENTED
AT HOUSTON SYMPHONY'S MUSIC EDUCATOR'S CONCERT

Five Outstanding Music Educators to be Honored at Jones Hall, January 29th

Houston, Texas, January 25, 2008 - Fidelity Investments® and the Houston Symphony today announced that five music educators have been chosen to receive the *2008 Fidelity FutureStage® Awards*, honoring individuals who passionately and selflessly dedicate themselves to the advancement of youth music programs.

The five honorees, representing four school districts and one private school in the Houston area, were nominated for the award by fellow educators and the general public. A panel of Houston Symphony musicians and administrators reviewed the many nominations, and selected the winners based on exceptional actions, accomplishments and consistency of service.

The following honorees will be recognized during the Salute to Educators Concert at Jones Hall on January 29, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

- **Jami Lupold, Pearl Hall Elementary (Pasadena ISD) - *Outstanding Classroom Music Specialist*.** A teacher at Pearl Hall for almost 10 years, Lupold has been instrumental in opening the eyes of her students to different cultures. She co-founded the Building Cultural Bridges program, which brings international guests to the classroom to discuss the music of their culture and how it relates to their lives now. More than 30 participants, including musicians, astronauts and scientists have met with Pearl Hall students.
- **Janwin Overstreet-Goode, Friendswood High School (Friendswood ISD) - *Outstanding Choral Director*.** In her four-year tenure at Friendswood High School, Overstreet-Goode has increased the size of the choral program by 54% to almost 200 students, and her top choir was recently honored with an invitation to perform at this year's Texas Music Educator's Association convention. She is a creative educator, engaging students with exciting new teaching strategies and collaborating on a new sight-reading textbook series, *SMART – Sight-singing Made Accessible, Readable, Teachable*.

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- **Donald Thoede, St. Thomas High School (Parochial) - Outstanding Instrumental Music Director – Band.** As director of music at St. Thomas, Thoede has grown the program from three ensembles to five, (band, jazz combo, jazz lab, string ensemble and beginning band) and has created a music community for his students, instilling a great sense of camaraderie. Thoede has also encouraged his students to share their talents, bringing his ensembles out into the community where they perform at many local fundraisers.
- **Shirley Astwood, Riverwood Middle School (Humble ISD) – Outstanding Instrumental Music Director – Strings.** A teacher known for encouraging the love of music in her students, Astwood consistently pushes her group of more than 200 to be the best that they can be. Her orchestras routinely win UIL sweepstakes awards, festival “Best in Shows” and have a large number of students advance into region orchestra.
- **Bryan Buffaloe, Bay Area Youth Symphony and Clear Lake High School (Clear Creek ISD) - Special Fidelity FutureStageSM Award.** The Special Award is designed for an individual whose effect on music education is marked by leadership and advocacy. Buffaloe serves as manager and executive director of the Bay Area Youth Symphony, an organization that he founded in 2006 to provide students across the Southeast Houston area an opportunity to perform in a high level musical ensemble while enriching their musical education. He is also the director of orchestras at Clear Lake High School.

As a recipient of the *Fidelity FutureStage Award*, each of the five winners will receive a check for \$1,000 to benefit their individual music programs, and a page from the score of *Solstice* for Trombone and Orchestra composed by Cindy McTee and autographed by Houston Symphony Music Director Hans Graf. The work was commissioned by the Houston Symphony and premiered by principal trombonist Allen Barnhill on January 10, 2008.

Presentation of these awards is part of the *Fidelity FutureStage* program, a new initiative designed to support and strengthen music education in local Houston schools, and provide unique opportunities for underserved student musicians to explore and develop their talents. The program launched in Houston this past December, when Fidelity and the Houston Symphony presented more than \$50,000 worth of new instruments to music students of Marshall Middle and Sharpstown High schools in the Houston Independent School District.

Other components of the *Fidelity FutureStage* program include the Musician Residency Program, where Houston Symphony musician mentors are visiting Sharpstown High and Marshall Middle schools on a weekly basis, providing group coaching and private lessons throughout the year. Advanced students at Sharpstown High will also have the opportunity to participate in the Composer Residency Pilot Project where they will learn the art of composition from a noted composer, who will then aid them in creating their own musical piece to be performed at a Houston Symphony concert later this year.

The Salute to Educators concert, conducted by Houston Symphony American Conducting Fellow Brett Mitchell, will include a solo appearance by Yiyang Julia Li, winner of the 2007 Houston Symphony League Concerto Competition, performing Prokofiev’s Violin Concerto No. 1 in D major. The featured work of the evening, Elgar’s Enigma Variations, will be performed by the combined Houston Symphony and Houston Youth Symphony.

Tickets for the Salute to Educators concert are free and available to all educators in the Houston area. Tickets may be requested beginning January 18, by calling (713) 238-1415. Please leave a name and number of tickets needed, and tickets will be at Will Call for pick up starting one hour before the concert.

About Fidelity Investments

Fidelity Investments is one of the world's largest providers of financial services, with custodied assets of \$3.4 trillion, including managed assets of \$1.6 trillion as of December 31, 2007.

Fidelity offers investment management, retirement planning, brokerage, and human resources and benefits outsourcing services to 24 million individuals and institutions as well as through 5,500 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. For more information about Fidelity Investments, visit www.fidelity.com.

Fidelity has four Investor Center locations in the Houston area including The Woodlands, Highland Village, Houston Memorial and Texas Medical Center. Fidelity is the sponsor of the Houston Symphony's 2007-08 classical season.

About Houston Symphony

Founded in 1913, the Houston Symphony is one of the oldest performing arts organizations in Texas. Its mission is to inspire and enrich the lives of Houston's diverse citizenry through outstanding symphonic music performed by a great orchestra. Each year the Houston Symphony performs more than 170 concerts attended by an estimated 350,000 people. The season includes classical, pops and family concerts as well as free summer concerts at Miller Outdoor Theatre. Deeply committed to the community, the Houston Symphony performs educational concerts for 40,000 students each year, tours the region every summer with 15 free children's concerts and appears at local hospitals, community centers and schools.

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