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**FIDELITY INVESTMENTS[®] AND THE BOSTON POPS
DONATE MORE THAN \$25,000 WORTH OF NEW INSTRUMENTS TO KICKOFF
NEW MUSIC EDUCATION INITIATIVE IN BOSTON**

Donation Celebrates Launch of Fidelity FutureStage[®] Music Education Program

BOSTON, January 28, 2008 – Fidelity Investments, the Boston Pops and Community Music Center of Boston (CMCB) today unveiled *Fidelity FutureStage*, a new music education initiative designed to support and strengthen music programs in local Boston schools, and provide unique opportunities for underserved student musicians to explore and develop their individual talents.

To celebrate the program kickoff, Fidelity and the Boston Pops surprised the students of Clarence R. Edwards Middle School in Charlestown with the donation of brand-new musical instruments valued at more than \$25,000.

More than 200 students gathered in the school auditorium for a special assembly featuring Boston Pops musicians performing under the direction of Conductor Keith Lockhart. As a surprise conclusion to the event, 47 new instruments - including new acoustic and electric guitars, trumpets, bass drums, snare drums, electric keyboards, a xylophone and a glockenspiel - were revealed on stage and presented to Edwards Band Director Gilberto Rivera and his music students. To identify the instrument needs of the school music program, Fidelity worked with The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to identifying underserved schools and bringing musical instruments to programs most in need.

"These new instruments play a significant role in the *Fidelity FutureStage* program, giving more students access to the resources they need to develop their musical interests and talents," said Jennifer Brown, executive vice president, Fidelity Investments. "Learning to play an instrument and experiencing music in new and creative ways can help young musicians build valuable skills that will serve them well, not just performing onstage, but throughout future stages of life."

Edwards is one of three schools selected to participate in the new program, along with John W. McCormack Middle School in Dorchester and Josiah Quincy Upper School in South Boston. The three were selected after careful evaluation of the schools' music education needs and administrative dedication to their programs. All three schools boast passionate, committed music educators in place to support the *Fidelity FutureStage* initiatives and foster well-rounded students with appreciation of the arts.

In effort to provide meaningful, authentic experiences and instruction for the participating music students, *Fidelity FutureStage* will afford students from the three participating schools a number of special opportunities to interact with professional musicians and trained music educators. In addition to the Boston Pops, CMCB will play an important role in this component of the program.

For the duration of the school year, musicians from CMCB will dedicate their time in the classrooms of the *Fidelity FutureStage* schools. The musicians will provide one-on-one and group instruction over the course of 18 weeks, sharing expertise ranging from individual instrument technique to playing as an ensemble. On select dates during the spring semester, Boston Pops musicians will visit the schools as special guests, interacting with the students in workshops focused on individual disciplines. The program will also coordinate field trips for students to attend rehearsals and concerts at Symphony Hall – for many, their first professional performance.

“We are thrilled to continue our partnership with Fidelity and be part of the new *Fidelity FutureStage* program,” said Keith Lockhart, conductor of the Boston Pops. “At a time when so many school music programs are cutting funding and other support, it’s a pleasure to be able to strengthen struggling programs and enable more students develop their musical interests.”

Fidelity FutureStage is a corporate sponsorship program 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 now underway in Boston and Houston, and will soon be added in Chicago and Los Angeles.

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.

About Keith Lockhart and The Boston Pops

Keith Lockhart is currently in his fourteenth season as conductor of the Boston Pops. In February 1995, he was named 20th conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra since its founding in 1885. During his tenure, he has conducted the orchestra in more than 1000 concerts, made 65 television shows, including 38 new programs for PBS's "Evening at Pops"; the annual July Fourth spectacular, produced by Boston's WBZ-TV and shown nationally on CBS Television; and the orchestra's annual holiday special, produced and aired in Boston on WBZ-TV and nationally on PBS. The Boston Pops' 2002 July Fourth broadcast was Emmy-nominated, and the "Evening at Pops" telecast of "Fiddlers Three" won the 2002 ASCAP Deems Taylor Award. Keith Lockhart was an October 2006 recipient of the Bob Hope Patriot Award from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. During his tenure, the Boston Pops has performed with a diverse group of musical greats including Natalie Cole, Rascal Flatts, Tony Bennett, Arturo Sandoval, Brian Stokes Mitchell, My Morning Jacket, Bernadette Peters, Elvis Costello, and Andrea Bocelli. 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.

About Community Music Center of Boston

Community Music Center of Boston (CMCB) is a non-profit community music school with a rich, 98-year history in the South End. The organization's mission is to provide instruction of exceptional quality to a diverse student body, particularly students from traditionally underrepresented Boston neighborhoods and special needs populations. CMCB serves more than 5,000 students each week, both onsite at their South End facility and in nearly 50 outreach locations including Boston Public Schools, youth centers, early intervention programs, elder care facilities and hospitals. A selection of CMCB offerings include: individual and group instruction on nearly 25 different instruments and a range of musical styles; music therapy; early childhood classes; K-8 school outreach programming;

and a multidisciplinary Summer ARTS program including music, dance, drama and visual arts. For more information visit www.cmcb.org.

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