



FIDELITY
FUTURESTAGE®



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS: The Silverman Group
Caroline Krajewski/Beth Silverman
312-932-9911/312-932-9950

Fidelity Investments
Media Relations
617-563-5800

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Julia Starzyk/Raechel Alexander
312-294-3090/312-294-3093

**FIDELITY INVESTMENTS® AND THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
SURPRISE LOCAL CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL WITH
\$25,000 WORTH OF NEW INSTRUMENTS**

Donation Celebrates Launch of Fidelity FutureStage® Music Education Program

CHICAGO, January 31, 2008 – Fidelity Investments, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and Merit School of Music today unveiled *Fidelity FutureStage*, a new music education initiative designed by Fidelity to support and strengthen music programs in local Chicago schools, and to provide unique opportunities for underserved student musicians to explore and develop their individual talents.

To celebrate the program kickoff, Fidelity and musicians from the CSO surprised the students of Hirsch Metro High School with the donation of brand-new musical instruments valued at over \$25,000.

More than 50 Hirsch music students were treated to a day at Symphony Center, home of the CSO, for a backstage tour and special performances by the professional musicians. As a surprise conclusion to the event, 22 new instruments – including trumpets, trombones, flutes, clarinets, alto and tenor saxophones, concert snare drums, a baritone horn and a tuba – were revealed on stage and presented to Hirsch Music Director Barbara Burlingame and her 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.”

- more -

Hirsch is one of two schools selected to participate in the new program, along with Thomas Kelly High School, following careful evaluation of the schools' music education needs and administrative dedication to their programs. Both schools boast passionate, committed music educators in place to support the *Fidelity FutureStage* initiatives and foster well-rounded students with appreciation of the arts.

The relationship with Kelly High School began over a year ago, when Fidelity donated a total of over \$60,000 worth of new instruments in December 2006 to three Chicago Public Schools, one being Kelly High School. Music students at Kelly will put those donated instruments to good use as a *Fidelity FutureStage* school this year.

In effort to provide meaningful, authentic experiences and instruction for the participating student musicians, *Fidelity FutureStage* will afford students from the two participating schools a number of special opportunities to interact with professional musicians and trained music educators. In addition to the CSO, Merit School of Music will play an important role in this component of the program. Merit, a nationally recognized community music school, has provided comprehensive music instruction to Chicago-area children and adults of all proficiency levels for almost three decades.

For the duration of the school year, musicians from Merit 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, CSO 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 Center – for many, their first professional performance.

“We are thrilled to continue our partnership with Fidelity and to support the new *Fidelity FutureStage* program,” said Deborah Card, president of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association. “This new and exciting program so beautifully aligns with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s ongoing educational initiatives and provides an opportunity for us to deepen our connection with the community.”

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. 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 Chicago, Boston and Houston, and will soon be added in 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 Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is one of the greatest orchestras in the world. The CSO performs well over one hundred concerts each year in Chicago and serves as its city's ambassador in frequent sold out tour performances across the country and internationally. CSO recordings have been awarded 58 Grammy® Awards, more than any other orchestra in the world. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra offers some of the most comprehensive education, community relations, and diversity programs of any U.S. orchestra. This season, the CSO will engage, educate, and inspire nearly 100,000 Chicago area schoolchildren, teachers, families, young musicians and concert attendees through programs at Symphony Center, in Chicago Public Schools, and at numerous community locations. CSO initiatives include Community Partnership Programs, stationed at community centers throughout the city of Chicago; youth education concerts and programs at Orchestra Hall and in Chicago Public Schools; the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in performances designed for the whole family as well as Symphony Center's *Kindermusik* center for small children; learning opportunities for adults; and advanced-level training and performance opportunities for young musicians, including the nationally-recognized Civic Orchestra of Chicago program, pre-professional training orchestra of the CSO. For detailed information about the CSO's education, community relations, and diversity programs, please visit www.cso.org/ecrd.

About Merit School of Music

Founded in 1979, Merit School of Music has successfully motivated and inspired over 45,000 young people with high-quality music instruction. A broad-ranging comprehensive curriculum, sense of community, standard of excellence set forth by faculty and students and a commitment to providing extensive financial support are the four major components of Merit's success. Merit students learn in one of the most uniquely diverse educational communities in the nation, drawing children from all of Chicago's 77 neighborhoods and nearly 70 surrounding suburbs. Merit employs an outstanding faculty of over 100 professional performing musicians committed to bringing out the best in each student. The school offers a multi-leveled, structured curriculum in a college preparatory environment. Programs take place at the Joy Faith Knapp Music Center in Chicago's West Loop and at off-site locations in neighborhoods across the City. Instruction is offered to students of all ages, from infants to adults, and from beginners to the Juilliard-bound. For more information, please visit www.meritmusic.org.

###

Fidelity FutureStage is a corporate sponsorship initiative of Fidelity Investments.

Fidelity FutureStage is a registered trademark of FMR LLC.