



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FIDELITY INVESTMENTS[®] AND THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC TO
SURPRISE LOCAL SCHOOLS WITH
\$50,000 WORTH OF NEW MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

April 22 Donation Event Celebrates Launch of Fidelity FutureStage[®] Music Education Program

LOS ANGELES, April 16, 2008 – Fidelity Investments and the Los Angeles Philharmonic are working together this spring to unveil *Fidelity FutureStage*, a new music education initiative designed by Fidelity to support and strengthen music programs in local Los Angeles schools, and to provide unique opportunities for underserved student musicians to explore and develop their individual talents.

To celebrate the program kickoff, Fidelity and the Los Angeles Philharmonic will surprise students of Van Nuys High School and Belvedere Middle School with the donation of brand-new musical instruments valued at over \$50,000 during a special performance event at Van Nuys High School on Tuesday, April 22 at 2:00pm.

Also on-hand will be music students from Nightingale Middle School, which received a donation of instruments from Fidelity during the 2006-07 school year and joins Van Nuys and Belvedere as the third school selected to participate in the *Fidelity FutureStage* program in Los Angeles.

More than 250 music students from the three schools will gather in the Van Nuys auditorium for a special assembly featuring Los Angeles Philharmonic members Ben Hong, Assistant Principal Cellist; Robert Vijay Gupta, First Violin; Stacy Wetzel, First Violin and Minor L. Wetzel, Violist. As a surprise conclusion to the event, 66 new instruments – including violas, cellos, oboes, bass clarinets, electric keyboards, acoustic and electric guitars, soprano and tenor saxophones, concert snare drums, marching cymbals, an electric bass and a bassoon – will be revealed on stage and presented to the music directors and students of the recipient schools.

“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 K. 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.”

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Fidelity and the Los Angeles Philharmonic worked with The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing musical instruments to the most underserved programs, to evaluate and identify the needs of each school, and to facilitate the purchase and delivery of the new instruments.

Van Nuys High School, Belvedere Middle School and Nightingale Middle School were selected to participate in the new program following careful evaluation of the schools' music education needs and administrative dedication to their programs. All three have passionate, committed music educators in place to support the *Fidelity FutureStage* initiatives and foster well-rounded students with appreciation of the arts. Dedication to music is not the only connection these three teachers share. Sarah Fuller of Belvedere Middle School and Jennifer Elliot of Nightingale Middle School were once students of Van Nuys High School music director Robert Eisenhart, who clearly passed on his love of teaching.

The relationship with Nightingale Middle School began over a year ago, when Fidelity donated more than \$80,000 worth of new instruments in December 2006 to four Los Angeles City Schools, one being Nightingale Middle School. Music students at Nightingale will continue to put those donated instruments to good use as a *Fidelity FutureStage* school this year and next. Belvedere and Van Nuys will do the same with the instruments unveiled at the April 22 celebration event.

In effort to provide meaningful, authentic experiences and instruction, *Fidelity FutureStage* will provide student musicians from the three participating schools a number of special opportunities to interact with professional musicians and trained music educators. The Los Angeles Philharmonic will oversee this component of the program.

For the duration of the spring semester and starting again at the start of the 2008-09 school year, freelance musicians who are part of the Los Angeles Philharmonic teaching artist faculty will work in the classrooms of the *Fidelity FutureStage* schools. These musician educators will provide one-on-one and group instruction, sharing expertise ranging from technique to expression and interpretation. On select occasions, professional musicians of the Los Angeles Philharmonic 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 Walt Disney Concert Hall – for many, their first time experiencing a professional orchestra.

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 Los Angeles, Boston, Chicago and Houston.

About Fidelity Investments

Fidelity Investments is one of the world's largest providers of financial services, with custodied assets of more than \$3.2 trillion, including managed assets of more than \$1.5 trillion as of March 31, 2008. 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 Los Angeles Philharmonic

The Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, under Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen, presents the finest in orchestral and chamber music, recitals, new music, jazz, world music and holiday concerts at two of the most remarkable places anywhere to experience music — Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl. In addition to a 30-week winter subscription season at Walt Disney Concert Hall, the LA Phil presents a 12-week summer festival at the legendary Hollywood Bowl, summer home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and home of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. In fulfilling its commitment to the community, the Association's involvement with Los Angeles extends to educational programs, community concerts and children's programming, ever seeking to provide inspiration and delight to the broadest possible audience.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008 at 2:00 PM

Van Nuys High School, 6535 Cedros Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91411

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