



**FIDELITY**  
FUTURESTAGE®



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**Media contacts:**

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

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

Jennifer Rudolph Mire, Houston Symphony, jennifer.mire@houstonSymphony.org, 713-238-1492

Holly Cassard, Houston Symphony, holly.cassard@houstonSymphony.org, 713-238-1490

**FIDELITY FUTURESTAGE® LAUNCHES 2010 NATIONAL MUSIC PROGRAM  
WITH CELEBRATION AT HOUSTON SYMPHONY'S JONES HALL, AND  
WITH EVENTS SIMULCAST FROM CHICAGO, LOS ANGELES AND BOSTON**

- Principal Pops Conductor Michael Krajewski helped Fidelity surprise hundreds of Houston area high school students with special unveiling of over \$100,000 worth of new musical instruments
- 2010 Fidelity FutureStage Music Competition announced; student winners to perform in a special Houston Symphony Concert on June 30
- Film and TV stars Jamie Foxx and Dominic Monaghan led the celebrations from Los Angeles, Joan Cusack from Chicago

HOUSTON, February 9, 2010 - Fidelity Investments®, in partnership with the Houston Symphony, today kicked off the Houston's 2010 Fidelity FutureStage® music education program, part of a national initiative to support arts education in public schools and provide unique educational opportunities for student musicians to explore and develop their individual talents.

The celebration event at Houston Symphony's Jones Hall 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, historic Symphony Hall in Boston and Chicago's Kenwood Academy. The event brought together **Houston Symphony Principal Pops Conductor Michael Krajewski**, the **Waltrip High School Jazz Band**, and special guests from every city via simulcast, including event host Dominic Monaghan and musician/actor Jamie Foxx in Los Angeles, actress Joan Cusack in Chicago and Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart.

Highlights included the announcement of four Houston public high schools selected to participate in the 2010 Fidelity FutureStage program – **Chavez High School, North Shore Middle School, Sterling High School and Waltrip High School**; 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 Jeanie Reckart, senior vice president and Texas 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 SATs<sup>1</sup>, and we're happy to provide more opportunities that may help to influence these important student success measures."

Connected to students in Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles via satellite and visible to each other on large onstage projection screens, more than 400 Houston area students showed off their city and school pride, and shared musical performances with their peers in the other three venues. As part of the program, Michael Krajewski talked about his experiences with the Houston Symphony, the importance of music education and introduced the high-spirited 22-piece Waltrip High School Jazz Band, who performed for the audience at Jones Hall and audiences in the other cities via simulcast.

Details of the Fidelity FutureStage 2010 Music Competition were also announced. Fidelity FutureStage and the Houston Symphony will conduct a regional search for talented public school musicians and vocalists. The application process kicks off on February 10, and competition is open to all Houston public school students. Winners will receive coaching from music professionals to prepare for a solo performance with the Houston Symphony as part of a special FutureStage Finale Concert at Jones Hall on June 30. Houston Symphony members will actively participate in the selection of competition winners. More details about the competition can be found at [www.futurestage.com](http://www.futurestage.com).

For the program's grand finale, Michael Krajewski, along with Jamie Foxx from Los Angeles, Joan Cusack from Chicago and Boston Pops Conductor Keith Lockhart from Boston, led the Jones Hall audience up 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 Los Angeles, Chicago and Boston as cameras showed dozens of new instruments being revealed simultaneously in each venue.

Fidelity's donation in Houston is made up of approximately \$25,000 worth of much-needed new instruments for each for the four FutureStage schools – Chavez High School, North Shore Middle School, Sterling High School and Waltrip High School. The thrilled students and their teachers accepted dozens of much-needed new instruments, ranging from violins, flutes, clarinets and French horns to xylophones, orchestra bells and copper timpani – all specifically requested by their respective school music programs.

Schools in Los Angeles, Chicago and Boston 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.

Since 2006, Fidelity FutureStage music and theater programs have touched more than 20,000 students representing over 100 public 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 information about Fidelity FutureStage, visit [www.futurestage.com](http://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](http://www.fidelity.com).

### **About the Houston Symphony**

The Houston Symphony has played a central role in Houston's cultural and civic life since 1913. Each year, the Houston Symphony performs more than 170 concerts for approximately 350,000 people, featuring an innovative and broad spectrum of classical, popular, education and community-based symphonic programming. For tickets and more information regarding the 2009-10 season or the upcoming 2010-11 season, please visit [www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org) or call 713-224-7575.

### **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](http://www.mhopus.org).

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