

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS ANNOUNCES JPMORGAN CHASE FOUNDATION GRANT TO SUPPORT 2007/2008 50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON**

**Commitment reflects expanded partnership with JP Morgan Chase**

(BOSTON) Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO) Executive Director Catherine Weiskel announced that the JPMorgan Chase Foundation has made a grant of \$100,000 to the organization to support the 2007/2008 50th anniversary season of the BYSO. For the past eight years, JPMorgan Chase has supported the BYSO's Intensive Community Program (ICP), which provides rigorous string instrument training to underserved youth in Boston-area neighborhoods. This expanded commitment to the entire 50th anniversary season means that JPMorgan Chase will continue to support ICP, while widening its philanthropic focus to include all of the BYSO's programs. This grant represents the largest single annual contribution that the BYSO has ever received.

Said Weiskel, "JPMorgan Chase has been wonderful supporters of ICP, and we are delighted that they see sponsorship of our entire season this year as a logical outgrowth of their earlier support. Their deepened commitment is particularly appropriate now, during the 2007/2008 season, when at least five students from ICP have been accepted into the Boston Youth Symphony (BYS), the premier BYSO ensemble. This orchestra has not had diverse representation, until BYSO made a commitment to provide true access to its highly competitive program. This year's ICP representation in the BYS is just the beginning of positive changes we are seeing as a direct result of this groundbreaking program."

BYSO's 50th anniversary season, under the musical direction of Federico Cortese, opens at Symphony Hall in Boston on Oct. 7, 2007. Details of the entire season, which includes an appearance by Yo-Yo Ma, a semi-staged Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, and a performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, will be announced in the next few weeks. As part of the Foundation's overall support JPMorgan will be the lead corporate sponsor of the Boston Youth Symphony's five concerts series this season which will also include subsidizing 250 tickets to BYS concerts for use by community-based organizations serving Boston-area youth.

"Transforming neighborhoods, communities and lives – these are important goals of the JPMorgan Chase Foundation's strategic philanthropy efforts, said JPMorgan Chase Global Philanthropy Executive, Kimberly B. Davis. "We have a long history of supporting education, the arts and diversity, which is why we are proud to sponsor the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras, and extend our congratulations for this landmark achievement."

### **About JPMorgan Chase**

JPMorgan Chase is a leading global financial services firm with assets of \$1.5 trillion and operations in more than 50 countries. The firm is a leader in investment banking, financial services for consumers, small business and commercial banking, financial transaction processing, asset and wealth management, and private equity. A component of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, JPMorgan Chase serves millions of consumers in the United States and many of the world's most prominent corporate, institutional and government clients under its JPMorgan and Chase brands. JPMorgan Chase is committed to investing in education, economic opportunity, development and environmental programs that enable people and communities to thrive. Information about the firm is available at [www.jpmorganchase.com](http://www.jpmorganchase.com).

### **About Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras**

Since its inception in 1958 at Boston University, the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (formerly the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras or GBYSO) continues to achieve the highest artistic standards, and remains committed to musical excellence. The BYSO is comprised of four different orchestras, each of which serves a particular level of a young musician's development. The most advanced of these is the Boston Youth Symphony (BYS), a group of about 100 outstanding players that performs a wide range of demanding orchestral repertoire, conducted by Federico Cortese. Today, the BYSO is widely regarded as one of the country's finest youth orchestras and is recognized nationally as a model music and arts education organization.