



AMENDED Jan. 7, 2008: *Joseph Valone has been added to the cast, as Guglielmo. Jim Petosa of Boston University's College of Fine Arts will stage direct.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY PERFORMS ITS FIRST-EVER FULL OPERA—
SEMI-STAGED *COSÌ FAN TUTTE* JAN. 20 AT SANDERS THEATRE**

(BOSTON) The Boston Youth Symphony (BYS), under the artistic leadership of Music Director Federico Cortese, will perform a semi-staged version of *Così fan tutte*, Mozart's celebrated opera buffa, with some of the region's finest professional soloists. The performance, part of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras' (BYSO) 50th anniversary season, takes place at Sanders Theatre at Harvard University on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008, at 3 pm. Performed in Italian with surtitles. Tickets are \$25—30, and discounted group, student and senior tickets are available. Call the Sanders Theatre Box Office at (617)496-2222. Free parking available at the Broadway Garage on Felton Street. Visit www.BYSOWEB.org for more information.

MOZART *Così fan tutte*

opera buffa in two acts, K. 588
Jessica Tarnish, Fiordiligi
Stephanie Chigas, Dorabella
Joseph Valone, Guglielmo
Steven Sanders, Ferrando
Valérie Arboit, Despina
Eric Downs, Don Alfonso

In Mozart's bittersweet comedy of manners, the love interests of two sisters pretend to go off to war, but actually disguise themselves to try to seduce each other's lovers. The ensuing story underscores timeless questions of fidelity and love. Many of the arias are considered among Mozart's finest.

This will be the first full opera the BYS has ever performed. Said Cortese, "The performance of a full opera by a youth orchestra is an absolutely remarkable accomplishment of which I am very proud. This opera was a fantastic tool for the musical growth of our students and I'm happy with

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BYSO, *Così fan tutte*, P. 2

the level of enthusiasm they showed as they rehearsed the piece. I could not be happier to perform our inaugural full opera during the BYSO's 50th anniversary season."

This BYSO production deepens the longstanding ties between the BYSO and Boston University College of Fine Arts, which has provided a home for the BYSO since 1958. The stage director will be Jim Petosa, Director of the School of Theatre at Boston University's College of Fine Arts (CFA), and five cast members are graduates from the Boston University Opera Institute at the School of Music: Ms. Tarnish, Ms. Chigas, Mr. Valone, Mr. Sanders and Ms. Arboit. For more information about CFA's School of Theatre or the Opera Institute, please visit www.bu.edu/cfa.

BYS is the most advanced of four different orchestras that comprise the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras. This 119-member ensemble is made up of students grades 7-12 from dozens of communities all over New England. BYSO performs a wide range of demanding orchestral repertoire, conducted by Mr. Cortese. This season, the BYSO will be featured in three more Boston performances, including a March 9, 2008, Celebrity Series Boston Marquee Concert and a 50th Season Anniversary Gala with world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma on May 18, 2008, both at Symphony Hall. In June, the BYSO concludes its season with its 19th international tour to perform at Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Germany, one of the finest concert halls in the world.

About Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras

The Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras, under the artistic leadership of Music Director Federico Cortese, continues a 50th anniversary season that celebrates a rich tradition of offering young musicians the opportunity to pursue excellence in classical music. A highlight of the ambitious season will be the special performance by Yo-Yo Ma as part of the 50th Anniversary Gala Event. For information about this event, or a complete schedule of all BYSO orchestras, please visit www.BYSOWEB.org.

The BYSO receives generous support from JPMorgan Chase Foundation, its 50th Anniversary Season sponsor. This performance of *Così fan tutte* is sponsored in part by The E. Nakamichi Foundation. BYSO also receives support from Boston University's College of Fine Arts, individual donors and Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC). According to the selection criteria used in MCC's three-year granting cycle, the BYSO was ranked first among all orchestras in the Commonwealth for its quality, community outreach and fiscal and administrative management.

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Since its inception at BU fifty years ago, 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. 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.

JPMorgan Chase

The BYSO 50th Anniversary Season is made possible in part by JP Morgan Chase Foundation. JPMorgan Chase Foundation's legacy of supporting education, the arts and diversity inspired the sponsorship of BYSO's 50th Anniversary season. JPMorgan Chase shares a common mission of a commitment to excellence, access to the arts and investing in and inspiring youth.

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