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**STUDENT-MUSICIANS SELECTED FOR
THE BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS' 50th SEASON**

Boston — 440 talented young musicians from all six New England states have been chosen to play with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (formerly called the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras) for the 2007/2008 season. These talented students were selected from more than 705 auditioning children – the highest number of applicants the organization has had in its history.

The 440 admitted young performers have weekly rehearsals to prepare for performances and tours. They perform in some of Boston's finest venues including Symphony Hall, Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory, Sanders Theatre at Harvard University, and the Tsai Performance Center at Boston University. Indeed, the BYSO's top orchestra, the Boston Youth Symphony (BYS) will perform Mozart's *Cosí fan tutte* this month on January 20, 2008, in Sanders Hall and the students will share the stage with renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma this spring. Additionally, the BYS will tour internationally for the 19th time this season; in June the students travel to Germany and the Czech Republic, notably performing at the acclaimed Gewandhaus in Leipzig.

The BYSO includes three full orchestras (the most advanced of whom are the BYS players), a string orchestra, four chamber orchestras, a chamber music program, and the Intensive Community Program, a 70-student, rigorous string training program for underserved youth. The BYSO is widely regarded as one of the nation's finest youth orchestras. For the past 50 years, the BYSO's mission has been to encourage musical excellence in a professional and supportive environment. It provides the highest quality orchestral training and performance opportunities to qualified musicians, grades K-12.

BYSO has been in residence at Boston University's College of Fine Arts since it was established in 1958 by Dr. Robert Choate. The BU College of Fine Arts is a major sponsor of BYSO. Additionally, the BYSO receives generous support from JPMorgan Chase Foundation, its 50th Anniversary Season sponsor, Roxbury Community College, 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 state for its quality, community outreach and fiscal and administrative management.

The BYSO 50th Anniversary Season is made possible in part by JPMorgan 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.

To purchase tickets to the BYS *Cosí fan tutte* performance on January 20, 2008, at 3 pm at Sanders Theatre, please call (617) 496-2222. Tickets are \$30 and \$25. For the full BYSO season calendar, including information about the 50th Season Gala Concert featuring Yo-Yo Ma, visit www.BYSOWEB.org or call 617-353-5353.