

# Boston Youth Symphony

ORCHESTRAS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS ANNOUNCES** **51st SEASON AUDITIONS**

(BOSTON) The Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO), under the artistic leadership of Music Director Federico Cortese, announces auditions for its 2008/09 season, its 51st. Auditions will be held in Boston from May 19-25, 2008. Applications and information, including attendance requirements and tuition, are available at [www.BYSOweb.org](http://www.BYSOweb.org) or by calling (617) 353-3348 x 4.

Auditions are open to students in grades K through 12, and those accepted are placed in one of six BYSO orchestral ensembles based on proficiency. The organization anticipates more than 700 student applicants and plans to accept more than 400 players. The current 50th season roster includes more than 440 students who represent 120 communities and all six New England states.

Since its inception in 1958, the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO) has evolved into one of Boston's preeminent cultural institutions for youth, committed to creating a supportive and professional environment that fosters musical excellence, while making programs accessible to underserved communities through financial aid and outreach.

The BYSO offers a continuum of training for students ages six to 18, with three full orchestras, a string orchestra, a preparatory wind ensemble, four chamber orchestras, a chamber music program, a rigorous string training program for underserved youth, and special classes, such as composition lessons and African drumming. BYSO musicians perform in some of Boston's finest venues including Symphony Hall, Sanders Theatre at Harvard University and Jordan Hall at the New England Conservatory. BYSO students begin each season at an intensive music camp in Sidney, Maine, for one to two weeks, and every other year the premier ensemble goes on a two-week international tour. The orchestras rehearse every Sunday from September through June at Boston University's College of Fine Arts, which is a major sponsor of the BYSO and where the organization has been in residence since it was established in 1958.

### **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. 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. It receives generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which ranked the BYSO first among Commonwealth orchestras for its quality, community outreach and fiscal management in 2007.

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