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2008-2009 SEASON SCHEDULE:

www.BYSOweb.org

BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 51st SEASON:

October 19 Opener Features Works

By Stravinsky and Beethoven at Symphony Hall

Music Director Federico Cortese Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Season Highlights: *Rite of Spring*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Mahler No. 5*

(BOSTON – August 12, 2008) The best way to get ready for Boston winter? Enjoy Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* this fall. The Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO), under Music Director Federico Cortese, will open its 51st season with Stravinsky's breath-taking work alongside Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3 in E flat Major*, "*Eroica*," on October 19, 2008, at Symphony Hall.

This performance launches a series of four concerts by the BYSO's most accomplished orchestra, the Boston Youth Symphony (BYS). Join this celebration of BYSO's half-century-old mission to provide young musicians with the opportunity to pursue excellence in classical music. All of last year's concerts were nearly or entirely sold out, including a gala concert featuring cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

The BYS chamber orchestras are renowned as one of the very few youth orchestras to perform full, semi-staged operas. In January, BYS will perform its second such opera at Sanders Theatre at Harvard University: Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, with members from Chorus pro Musica. In April, the BYS performs Mahler's momentous *Symphony No. 5 in C sharp minor* at Symphony Hall. The season will conclude with performances of Strauss' *Ein Heldenleben* and a BYS concerto competition winner.

View the full season schedule at www.BYSOweb.org. Tickets are \$25 and \$30; season subscribers receive up to a 25% discount.

Celebrating 10 years of music direction under Mr. Cortese, the BYSO will mark his anniversary with an impressive arrangement of repertoire for the talented youth musicians. "I am honored to have served the BYSO for a decade. BYSO strives for professional-level performance in an energizing atmosphere. I

have been personally touched and indescribably impressed with the level of quality and dedication our players demonstrate in that effort,” said Mr. Cortese.

The BYSO consists of approximately 420 students from all six New England states and 126 communities. The accomplished musicians must compete annually for acceptance into this group of outstanding players who intensively rehearse a wide range of demanding orchestral repertoire. The BYS, the most advanced of the BYSO orchestras, includes more than 110 students. Six percent of these BYS students entered the orchestra through the Intensive Community Program (ICP), the BYSO’s rigorous string instrument program that was founded 10 years ago and is dedicated to serving under-represented youth in the Boston area.

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST:

- **High-resolution photos**
- **A student roster of all participating youth and their hometowns**

BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY (BYS) 2008-2009 4-CONCERT SEASON SCHEDULE

Federico Cortese, *Conductor*

Sunday, October 19, 2008, 3 pm at Symphony Hall

STRAVINSKY *Rite of Spring*
BEETHOVEN *Symphony No. 3 in E flat Major, “Eroica”*

Also featuring:

Repertory Orchestra, Joel Bard, *Conductor*
VERDI *Winter from I Vespri Siciliani*
VERDI *Overture to La Forza del Destino*
Junior Repertory Orchestra, Adrian Slywotzky, *Conductor*
BORODIN *In the Steppes of Central Asia*

Sunday, January 18, 2009, 3 pm at Sanders Theatre at Harvard University

MOZART *Le nozze de Figaro*, semi-staged full opera with Chorus pro Musica

Sunday, April 5, 2009, 3 pm at Symphony Hall

MAHLER *Symphony No. 5 in C sharp minor*

Also featuring:

Young People’s String Orchestra, Bonnie Black, *Conductor*
Intensive Community Program, Bonnie Black, *Conductor*

Sunday, June 14, 2009, 3 pm at Sanders Theatre at Harvard University

LIGETI *Concert Românesc*
STRAUSS *Ein Heldenleben*
TBD *BYS Concerto Competition Winner performance*

Also featuring:

Repertory Orchestra, Joel Bard, *Conductor*
SIBELIUS *Tempest Suite No. 1*

About Music Director Federico Cortese

Federico Cortese assumed the post of Music Director of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras in 1999 and celebrates his 10th anniversary during the 2008-2009 season. He has conducted throughout the United States, Australia, China, and Europe. From 1998-2002, he served as Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra under Seiji Ozawa. In addition to his annual scheduled concerts, Mr. Cortese led the Boston Symphony several times in Symphony Hall and at Tanglewood, most notably performing Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* and Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. Mr. Cortese is also the Music Director at the New England String Ensemble and has conducted several prominent symphony orchestras, including Atlanta, Dallas, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Symphony and Oslo Philharmonic. Opera engagements have included *Maggio Musicale* in Florence, the Spoleto Festival in Italy and the United States, the Boston Lyric Opera, the Saint Louis Opera, the Finnish National Opera, Opera Australia, and the Washington Opera. Mr. Cortese has been music coordinator and associate conductor of the Spoleto Festival in Italy. He also served as Assistant Conductor to Robert Spano at the Brooklyn Philharmonic and to Daniele Gatti at the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome. Mr. Cortese studied composition and conducting at the Conservatorio di Santa Cecilia in Rome and subsequently studied at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna. In addition, he has been a conducting fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center. Mr. Cortese also studied literature and humanities and holds a law degree from La Sapienza University in Rome.

About Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras

The Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (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. Since its inception in 1958 at Boston University, the BYSO (formerly the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras or GBYSO) continues to achieve the highest artistic standards and remains committed to musical excellence. The organization marked its 50th anniversary with a gala concert featuring cellist Yo-Yo Ma in May 2008. The BYSO receives generous support from Boston University's College of Fine Arts, which is a major sponsor of the BYSO. The organization also receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). According to the selection criteria used in MCC's three-year granting cycle in 2007, 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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