

CONTACT:

Kristin Altman (617) 358-6015, kaltman@bu.edu
Erin Keegan Ianni (617) 353-3359, keegan@bu.edu

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www.BYSOweb.org

BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS ANNOUNCES
NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT

Eduardo Tobon to Guide BYSO into Second Half-century of Musical Excellence

(BOSTON – October 9, 2008) The Board of Directors of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (BYSO) has elected Eduardo Tobon to the position of Board President effective October 2008. He succeeds David M. Welch who served as BYSO Board President for six years. The Board of Directors has also elected seven new members as three members' terms conclude.

During Mr. Welch's six year term as BYSO Board President, the BYSO more than doubled in size and is now the largest youth orchestra in the nation with a \$2 million annual operating budget. Following its 50th anniversary season last year that included a gala performance with cellist Yo-Yo Ma, the organization opens its 51st season with a performance of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, "*Eroica*," on October 19, 2008, at Symphony Hall.

"Having celebrated the BYSO's 50th anniversary last season, the organization is thrilled to have Mr. Tobon assume this important leadership position," said Catherine Weiskel, BYSO Executive Director. "We are confident that his enthusiasm for music education and his financial expertise will serve the BYSO tremendously. His passion for our mission will enable him to be extremely successful in guiding the BYSO into our next 50 years of providing young musicians with the opportunity to pursue excellence in classical music."

An education and classical music enthusiast, Mr. Tobon currently serves as Senior Vice President and Director of Strategic Alliances and International Cash Management at Sovereign Bank. He currently oversees relationships with businesses ranging from large complex companies to startups, and under his leadership Sovereign has developed multiple strategic alliances and a portfolio of more than 60,000 clients. Before joining Sovereign in 2001, Mr. Tobon was a senior strategic consultant at two McKinsey legacy firms --Mitchell Madison Group and AT Kearney. His prior experience also includes senior management positions in planning and strategy at Procter & Gamble and Lithonia Lighting in Latin America. Mr. Tobon earned a Master of Business Administration in strategy and finance from the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University.

"As the father of young children, I believe very strongly in the importance of music education and making music accessible to all children. The BYSO's Intensive Community Program that engages underserved youth in classical music is a model program, and the organization as a whole has a commendable mission to serve and nurture its talented young students. Ms. Weiskel and Mr. Welch have taken the BYSO to great places; I am eager to expand upon their successes during my tenure as we implement the BYSO's strategic long-range plan and I am honored to represent the children, the staff, and my fellow Board members as the new Board President" said Mr. Tobon.

In October 2008 the BYSO Board of Directors also nominated to the board seven new members: David Archibald, Julie F. Barron, Cecilia O'Keefe, John A. Sims, Jr., Robert A. Skinner, Steve Wagner and Genie Ware. Three members' term cycles have ended: David Schwartz, David Shrag, and former President David Welch.

For more information about the BYSO and its 51st season opening concert, go to www.BYSOweb.org.

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

- Interviews with Mr. Tobon or Ms. Weiskel
- High-resolution portrait of Mr. Tobon and orchestral photography of BYSO students
- A student roster of all BYSO participating youth and their hometowns
- BYSO season press announcement

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. It consists of approximately 420 students from the New England area, representing more than 120 communities. Its Intensive Community Program (ICP) has 62 students from underrepresented Boston communities; 40 of the 62 have advanced into the BYSO's orchestras. 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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