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Contact: Kim Jennings
Director of Marketing and PR
Phone: 617-353-3359
Fax: 617-353-5205
Email: kjenning@bu.edu

**GBYSO VIOLINIST TAPPED TO REPLACE
YO-YO MA LAST MINUTE AT DNC**

Boston, Mass. – July 27, 2004 Sixteen-year-old Newton resident Gabriel Lefkowitz, concertmaster of the Senior Orchestra of The Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (GBYSO), one of America's premier youth orchestras, was asked at the last minute to replace Yo-Yo Ma in playing the September 11th tribute at the Democratic National Convention on Monday, July 26.

Lefkowitz spent Sunday rehearsing his own arrangement of "Amazing Grace," which he played on Monday night as part of a moving 9/11 tribute that also included actress Glenn Close. When asked if he was nervous about playing in front of millions on national television, Lefkowitz said, "Are you kidding! I was incredibly nervous...it was such an honor to even be asked!"

Following his participation in GBYSO's two-week concert tour of Estonia, Latvia, and Russia, which included a sold-out performance at St. Petersburg's famous Shostakovich Hall, Lefkowitz has lately been rehearsing an opera with the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra. Winner of GBYSO's Senior Orchestra's Concerto Competition in 2002 and violinist with GBYSO since 1995, Lefkowitz has also performed with many other orchestras, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the New Philharmonic Orchestra and the North Shore Philharmonic, all in Massachusetts.

Gabe Lefkowitz is now available for interview.
Please call Kim Jennings at 781-264-4009 if you are interested in talking with him.

About GBYSO

The Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras (GBYSO), led by Music Director and Conductor Federico Cortese, is one of America's premier youth orchestras, with 350 students ages six to 18 from six New England states, comprising four progressively structured orchestras, three chamber orchestras, and a rigorous string training program for underserved youth. GBYSO has garnered numerous awards, including the 2003 Commonwealth Award by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and was named one of the top five youth orchestras in the US by National Public Radio's *Performance Today*. Founded in 1958 at Boston University, GBYSO has provided talented young musicians with challenging rehearsal, performance, and recording experience in a professional environment while serving the community by encouraging a greater understanding of and participation in music. For more information about GBYSO, including season ticket information and audition dates visit our website at www.gbyso.org or call 617-353-5330.

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