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For Immediate Release

American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras: Winter Concerts December 5 & 7, 2008

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary Season of Music Director Luis Haza

McLean, VA, November 25, 2008: Three of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras' ensembles hold their inaugural concerts of the 44th season during the first weekend of December. The orchestra program's youngest musicians of the American Youth String Ensemble will perform *Winter Magic* on Friday, December 5, 2008, 7:00pm at Langley High School in McLean, Virginia. The American Youth Concert Orchestra and the American Youth Symphonic Orchestra will perform *Pastiche* on Sunday, December 7, 2008, 6:00pm at Langley High School. Both concerts feature a multitude of repertoire, ranging from the classic 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, narrated by Music Director Luis Haza, to works by Tchaikovsky, Verdi, and Brahms. Both concerts are family-friendly and entertaining for all ages! For ticket information and details about the concerts: www.aypo.org.

The 2008-2009 season is Music Director Luis Haza's 25th anniversary year with AYPO. "The American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras has served our community for 44 years, 25 of which have been under the direction of Maestro Luis Haza," said Michael Blakeslee, AYPO Board President. "This season we will be celebrating his commitment to the art of music and dedication to the education of young people. I hope the members of this community will join us in thanking him for his contributions to us and to our children." Luis Haza intends to retire as Music Director of AYPO at the end of the 2008-2009 season but will remain with the organization until a new Music Director is appointed.

About AYPO: Recognized as one of the leading orchestral training programs in the nation, the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras (AYPO) provides competitive world-class training and performance opportunities for young musicians ages 7 - 21. With nationally recognized conductors, led by Luis Haza of the National Symphony Orchestra, a dedicated professional staff, and a host of volunteers, AYPO annually selects and trains over 400 of the most talented young musicians from throughout the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area. AYPO is the *Youth Orchestra in Residence* at George Mason University's Center for the Arts and was selected by the Catalogue for Philanthropy as "one of the best small nonprofits in the Greater Washington region."
