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**BOSTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS, ACADEMY AWARD
WINNING ACTOR LOUIS GOSSETT, JR. AND THE
YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHORUS OF NEW YORK CITY
CELEBRATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

**A community of young people, joining their hearts and voices,
celebrating a dream in nationally televised program...**

BOSTON, MASS. — Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream. More than 45 years later, the singers of the Boston Children's Chorus (BCC) are carrying it forward for future generations.

On Monday, January 19, the BCC will join special guests Academy Award winning actor Louis Gossett, Jr. and the Young People's Chorus of New York City for "Raising the Roof!" a nationally televised tapestry of words and music honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In a nation with a contentious history and sometimes racially charged climate, the children of the BCC seek to harness the power and joy of music as a catalyst to unite our nation's diverse communities and inspire social change. Coming from more than 50 communities in and around Boston, these talented singers transcend race and class in pursuit of something greater than themselves.

Held on the eve of the historic inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama, the concert will take place at the New England Conservatory of Music's prestigious Jordan Hall, widely considered to be one of the most acoustically perfect classical music performance spaces in America.

"We are delighted to be taking part in this annual tribute to Martin Luther King on the eve of the inauguration of Barack Obama," said Francisco J. Nuñez, artistic director and founder of the Young People's Chorus of New York City. "It is not only Dr. King's birthday we are celebrating today, but his dream of all God's children uniting together in brotherhood and our hopes and prayers for our nation under our new president."

The show will air live at 7 p.m. EST in major markets around the country, including Boston, Washington, D.C., Tampa-St. Petersburg, Phoenix, Cleveland,

Miami-Ft. Lauderdale, Sacramento, Orlando-Daytona Beach, St. Louis and Pittsburgh. **In New York, the show will air on WABC on Sunday, January 25 at 1 p.m.**

“It is the responsibility of every generation to raise the quality of life for the next one,” said Gossett, who in 2006 launched The Eracism Foundation, a non-profit organization which seeks to promote education and awareness of racism, ignorance and social apathy.

“This is progress,” he said of the event. “This is great progress and a model for the rest of our nation.”

For more information please visit www.bostonchildrenschorus.org.

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About the Boston Children’s Chorus: *The Boston Children’s Chorus is an accomplished children’s singing group with nine choirs and 300 singers ranging from age seven to eighteen years old. Founded by Boston educator and activist Hubie Jones in 2003 and led by Artistic Director Anthony Trecek-King, the BCC seeks to harness the power and joy of music as a catalyst to unite our city’s diverse communities and inspire social change. The group has performed at the Democratic National Convention, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick’s Inauguration and with the Boston Pops, as well as in Chicago, Oregon, Mexico and Japan. The group will tour in Jordan at the invitation of King Abdullah II in the summer of 2009.*

About Louis Gossett, Jr. *Louis Gossett, Jr. is an internationally acclaimed actor, social entrepreneur, humanitarian, and a passionate advocate of civil rights and diversity. An enduring Hollywood presence for more than five decades, Mr. Gossett ranks as one of the most respected and beloved actors of our time. He is perhaps best known for the role of “Fiddler” in the ground breaking 1977 television mini series “Roots” for which he won an Emmy. He was also the first American-born black male to win an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his performance as the hard-charging gunnery Sergeant Emil Foley in the 1982 film “An Officer and a Gentleman.” Mr. Gossett, 72, founded the Eracism Foundation in 2006, which seeks to promote education and awareness of racism, ignorance and social apathy.*

About the Young People’s Chorus of New York City. *The Young People’s Chorus of New York City has distinguished itself as one of the finest youth choruses in the world. Founded by artistic director Francisco J. Núñez in 1988 with a commitment to diversity and musical excellence, more than 1,100 children of all ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds participate annually in the Chorus’ core after-school program and through its satellite program in New York City schools. The chorus has won cheers for its performances on three continents, singing everywhere from Carnegie Hall and the White House to Smetana Hall in Prague and St. Martin in the Fields in London. The chorus is in residence at the 92nd Street Y; Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center; and WNYC, New York Public Radio.*

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