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PRESS RELEASE  

May 1, 2008  

Teresa Cheung chosen as Altoona Symphony’s 11th Music Director  
Altoona Symphony’s 80th Season will Premiere at Canal Basin Park on Saturday, August 30th at 6 p.m. 

Altoona – May 1, 2008 – The Altoona Symphony Society, Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of Teresa Cheung as their 11th Music Director. She will begin her tenure with the Altoona Symphony Orchestra (ASO) July 1, 2008. Her first concert will be held Labor Day weekend on Saturday August 30, 2008 at 6 p.m. at Canal Basin Park and will be offered free to the public. It will be entitled Labor of Love and will kick off the ASO’s 80th season.

Also on Saturday, August 30th, there will be an ASO fundraising reception prior to the concert from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Canal Basin Park’s Reiser House for the public to meet Teresa in person. For reception reservations call 943-2500.

About Teresa Cheung
In Cheung’s letter of application she is quoted as saying, “My responsibility as music director is to facilitate ideas and to commit to the highest artistic standards possible in the presentation of quality music. Regardless of the types of concert events we present, audiences should leave the concert hall with newfound curiosity and appreciation for the music.”

Teresa Cheung is assistant conductor for the American Symphony Orchestra, conductor for Empire Opera and music di-
rector and conductor for the Manhattan College Orchestra. She began her conducting career as apprentice conductor of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, and for six years she served as resident conductor for the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor of the Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and Evansville Philharmonic Chorus. During her tenure in Evansville, Cheung played a major role in the musical life of the community. Amongst her many initiatives, she led the Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra on its first international concert tour to Japan in 2002.

A strong advocate for music education for all ages, Cheung has created numerous innovative concerts and lectures for educational programs with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and the American Symphony Orchestra. She has been conducting master classes for the Meet the Artists series at Lincoln Center in New York City since 2007. Cheung is equally at home with orchestral and choral genres and is in frequent demand for symphonic, choral, and operatic productions, including the world premiere of Ruth Schonthal's opera Jocasta. She served as the rehearsal conductor for Marc Blitzstein's Regina and the first US fully staged production of Robert Schumann's Genoveva while serving as assistant conductor to Maestro Leon Botstein at the Bard SummerScape and the Bard Music Festival. Recent guest conducting appearances include Bard Music Festival with the American Symphony Orchestra, Antara Ensemble, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra, and Phoenix Symphony. A native of Hong Kong, Cheung earned her MM in Conducting from the Eastman School of Music. She is the recipient of the JoAnn Falletta Conducting Award for the most promising female conductors.

For more information concerning this appointment or an interview with Teresa Cheung please contact the Symphony office at (814) 943-2500 or contact Teresa Cheung directly at (718) 930-2081. The Altoona Symphony office is located at 1331 12th Avenue, Suite 107, and is open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. Mail should be sent to P.O. Box 483, Altoona, Pennsylvania, 16603. For more information about the Altoona Symphony Orchestra or its events, call the Symphony office at (814) 943-2500 or fax (814) 943-7115. E-mail to aso_brooke@atlanticbbn.net. Press and advertising information can be obtained through the Symphony office as well.