



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASO Premieres *American Rhetoric* New Work by Todd Goodman

August 23, 2004 - BEDFORD, PA With the election of 2004 around the corner, the Altoona Symphony Orchestra celebrates American politics by presenting the world premiere of *American Rhetoric*, its 6th commissioned work of composer-in-residence Todd Goodman at their October 2, 2004, concert at the Mishler Theatre in Altoona, Pennsylvania. *American Rhetoric* is a musical journey through the last sixty years of the office of the President of the United States. Combined with the orchestra, the work uses taped speeches of America's top leaders to take the audience creatively through an unique experience of the greatest American Presidential moments. Kennedy's "Get America moving again", Reagan's "Berlin Wall", Roosevelt's "Day of Infamy" and George W. Bush's "Bullhorn at Ground Zero" are just a few of the inspiring words spoken by the leaders of the United States, past and present in this bipartisan and truly patriotic work.

American Rhetoric was commissioned by the ASO to celebrate the opening of their 76th season. Mr. Goodman has had the honor of writing the opening work for the last three seasons, including a special commission *Fanfare for a New Era* to celebrate the orchestra's silver anniversary.

"It's rare for a composer to have such a long on-going relationship with an orchestra, but this is a great fit for all concerned! The orchestra and the public really enjoy Todd's music, and Todd enjoys both the opportunity to compose a variety of different kinds of works for the ASO as well as the opportunity to have his music played where he grew up."

Maestro Nicholas Palmer, music director
Altoona Symphony Orchestra

Goodman's works have been a staple of the repertoire of the Altoona Symphony Orchestra since the opening of their 2002 season. His Symphony No. 1 *Fields of Crimson, Some Assembly Required, He Needs His Sleep*, and others have entertained previous ASO audiences.

The premiere of his Symphony No. 1 *Fields of Crimson* which was released on the 140th anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg has been widely well received. Music critics, Civil War authors and scholars, music educators, and orchestra administration have all found the music and story of *Fields of Crimson* to be a powerful new addition to the American music repertoire.

"I found the entire piece including the spoken word, Wonderfully Haunting. Well Done!"
Jeff Shaara, author *Gods and Generals*

"A historic performance by one of the country's promising young composers!"
Chris Frear, editor *Bedford Gazette*

(CONTINUED...)

*For review or airplay copies of Todd Goodman's Symphony No. 1 "Fields of Crimson,"
please email info@WrongNoteMedia.com.*

Goodman has also been commissioned *Sketches of Home* from the Altoona Symphony Orchestra, a unique work for strings to be premiered on March 12, 2005, at the Mishler Theater. This work is a musical interpretation and realization of several paintings by Bedford artist Kevin Kutz. *More updated information when available will be posted on www.WrongNoteMedia.com.*

Todd Goodman was born in Bedford, Pennsylvania in 1977. He received his Bachelor of Music degree in composition at the University of Colorado at Boulder and is currently working on a Master of Music degree at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has also studied at the Aspen Music Festival in Aspen, Colorado. Mr. Goodman has received commissions from a wide variety of players and ensembles across the United States. With many performances in the United States his works have also been performed in Canada, Mexico, Europe and Asia. He feels that the audience connection and participation in his music is vital to its success. He wants people to leave a concert feeling that they experienced a work rather than just observing.

Other upcoming notable performances and world premiere's of Mr. Goodman's works include his Symphony No. 1 *Fields of Crimson* by the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra on February 12, 2005 at 7:30pm in the Upper St. Clair High School outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (412-278-2326 for more information), the world premiere of *Sketches of Home* by the Altoona Symphony Orchestra on March 12, 2005, at the Mishler Theatre in Altoona, Pennsylvania (814.943.2500 for ticket information), and the world premiere of *River of Sorrows* based on the book *Juniata, River of Sorrows* by Saint Francis University author Dennis P. McIlroy by the combined Juniata College Wind Symphony and the 2006 Juniata College High School Honors Band in April 2006, on the campus of Juniata College (visit www.WrongNoteMedia.com for updated information).

Tickets for the world premiere of *American Rhetoric* by the Altoona Symphony Orchestra on October 2, 2004 at the Mishler theater can be purchased by calling 814.943.2500.

Mr. Goodman's works and more information may be found at www.WrongNoteMedia.com,
www.CDBaby.com, www.Amazon.com, www.Tower.com.

For interviews:

Todd Goodman • 720.470.0156 • ToddGoodman@WrongNoteMedia.com

In Pennsylvania • anytime by telephone or email

high resolution photo available at www.WrongNoteMedia.com/bios

Altoona Symphony Orchestra (Lawrence Kopp, executive director)

814.943.2500 • AltoonaSymphony@keyconn.net

In Pennsylvania • anytime by telephone or email

Nicholas Palmer • 270.684.0661 • nvp@OwensboroSymphony.org

In Kentucky • anytime by telephone or email

“Without music, life would be a mistake.”

— *Friedrich Nietzsche*