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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE ARTS COUNCIL'S 2009 SUMMER SERIES PRESENTS **THE ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

It has been an annual tradition since 1975...The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra marks its 34th anniversary performance for patrons in Gainesville, Hall County, and northeast Georgia on Friday, July 24th.

Regarded as one of the most creative and innovative orchestras in North America, the 95-member Atlanta Symphony Orchestra is complemented by the acclaimed Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and the widely recognized Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra. Serving as the cornerstone for musical performance and training in an area extending far beyond our city's borders, the ASO reaches nearly half a million people through its various concert series and its diverse initiatives in music education and outreach.

Mei-Ann Chen returns for a second year as the conductor of the ASO on their July 24th performance. Mei-Ann Chen has attracted much attention as a young conductor on a rapid rise since 2005 after she became the first woman to win the prestigious international Nicolai Malko Competition for Conductors in its 40-year history. Before coming to Atlanta, Mei-Ann directed five memorable seasons as Conductor and Music Director of the Portland Youth Philharmonic (2002-7) and also served as the Assistant Conductor of the Oregon Symphony (2003-5). During her tenure with the PYP, Mei-Ann led its sold-out debut in Carnegie Hall that met with long standing ovation.

The 2009 concert opens with Felix Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides Overture*, Opus 26 followed by Ralph Vaughan Williams' *English Folk Songs: Suite. Tales from the Vienna Woods: Waltzes*, Opus 325 by Johann Strauss, Jr will follow. After intermission the ASO begins with two selections from Ronan

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Hardiman's music from *Lord of the Dance: The Lord of the Dance and Cry of the Celts*. Other pieces included after intermission are selections from Frederick Loewe's *Camelot* and Richard Rodgers *Oklahoma!* Waltzes, Opus 314 *On the Beautiful Blue Danube* by Johann Strauss, Jr. will close the evening.

Special discounted individual tickets for the ASO are \$25 per person or you may purchase a table for 8 for the ASO performance for \$240. The rain date for the ASO is July 26th. (Rental price does not include a table cover). The Arts Council is please to have The Holbrook of Lake Lanier and Hygafem-Georgia as corporate sponsors for the ASO performance. Also The Times and Jacobs Media are media sponsors for this year's concert.

The gates open at 6pm for each event and the performances at The Arts Council *Smithgall Arts Center* begin at 8:00pm. To order tickets call 770.534.2787 or www.theartscouncil.net or at The Arts Council office at 331 Spring St, SW Gainesville, GA.

For artist contact information call Gladys Wyant at 770-534-2787.

DIRECTIONS TO ARTS COUNCIL SMITHGALL ARTS CENTER

From Atlanta: Take I-85 north to Exit 113 bearing left onto I-985 north to Exit 20 GA Highway 60 (Queen City Pkwy/Candler Rd). Turn left onto GA 60 and proceed approximately 2 miles to intersection with GA Hwy 369 (Jesse Jewell Pkwy), turn right onto GA 369 and proceed approximately 1/2 mile to intersection with W. Academy St (poultry monument/railroad museum on left, BB&T on right) turn left onto W. Academy and proceed 2 blocks and the Arts Council *Smithgall Arts Center* will be on the right at the intersection of W. Academy and Spring Streets