

TENG LI
Violist

It was 2004 when Teng Li made a splash in the Toronto music scene by landing the Toronto Symphony Orchestra Principal Viola position at the astonishing age of 21. TSO Music Director Peter Oundjian describes her as “an extraordinary talent that everyone recognizes, and the Orchestra enjoys the wonderful experience of performing with this talent both as a section leader and as soloist.” A future TSO engagement features Ms. Li in Takemitsu’s *A String Around Autumn* in March of 2009, and past engagements include Bartok’s Viola Concerto in February 2008, Berlioz’s *Harold in Italy* in November of 2006, Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante in May 2006, and Strauss’ *Don Quixote* in November of 2005.

Teng has given recitals in Toronto, Philadelphia, Chicago, Washington DC, and New York. David Patrick Stearns of the Philadelphia Inquirer noted “she...played with a sparkling freshness you usually hear in your dreams.” Along with her TSO solo appearances, Ms. Li has performed with the National Chamber Orchestra, the Santa Rosa Symphony, the Munich Chamber Orchestra, the Haddonfield Symphony, Shanghai Opera Orchestra, and the Canadian Sinfonietta. Her performances have been broadcast on CBC Radio 2, National Public Radio, WQXR (New York), WHYI (Pennsylvania), WFMT (Chicago), and Bavarian Radio (Munich).

An accomplished chamber musician, Teng has participated in the festivals of Marlboro, Santa Fe, Music from Angel Fire, Rome, Moritaburg (Germany) and the Rising Stars Festival in Caramoor. During the 2004/2005 season, she performed with the Guarneri Quartet in New York, and has performed at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall and with the 92nd St. “Y” Chamber Music Society. Teng was featured in concert with the Guarneri Quartet in their last season at the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and she is also a member of the prestigious Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society Two.

A recipient of numerous awards, Teng has won first prize at the Johansson International and the Holland-America Music Society competitions, and second prize at the 2003 Primrose International Viola Competition and the Irving M. Klein International String Competition. She was also a winner of the Astral Artistic Services 2003 National Auditions.

Teng began the violin at age 5 in her native China, and switched to viola at age 12. She entered the Central Conservatory in Beijing in 1992, and at age 16 was accepted to study at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where her teachers were Michael Tree and Joseph DePasquale. Teng resides in downtown Toronto and enjoys shopping, electronics, exploring the many restaurants in the city, and has recently taken up cooking.

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