



September 9, 2009
For Immediate Release

Contact: Erin MacCurtain
617-437-0707 x117, emaccurtain@fromthetop.org

STATE COLLEGE TROMBONE PLAYER FEATURED ON *FROM THE TOP*
SHOW BROADCASTS NATIONALLY WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21

18-year-old trombone player Elisabeth Shafer will appear on an upcoming episode of *From the Top*, the hit public radio program featuring America's best young classical musicians and hosted by acclaimed pianist **Christopher O'Riley**. Now celebrating its 10th Anniversary Season, *From the Top* is heard on nearly 250 stations nationwide and taped before live audiences around the country. Broadcast from the **Holland Performing Arts Center in Omaha, NE**, the show will be heard on the broadcast of *From the Top* on **WRTI 90.1 FM at 2 pm Sunday, September 27**.

Elisabeth comes from a musical family, where her mother is a choir director and her father is a piano professor at Penn State University in their hometown of State College, PA. Her sister, Sarah previously appeared on *From the Top*. A recent graduate of State College Area High School, Elisabeth performed with her high school's symphonic and jazz bands, and sang with the Master Singers. She was a member of the Williamsport Symphony Youth Orchestra. Also an accomplished pianist, she has performed with the Penn State Baroque Ensemble and the Williamsport Symphony.

On the broadcast, Elisabeth performs Stjepan Sulek's Sonata "Vox Gabrieli", accompanied and interviewed by Christopher O'Riley. Also included on the broadcast is a 12-year-old cellist from Haverford, PA, a pianist and a violist, both 18-years-old from Omaha, NE, and a teen percussion quartet from the Chicago area.

The episode was recorded before a live audience on May 22, 2009 and will be available online at www.fromthetop.org after the broadcast.

About From the Top

What began as a radio experiment in 2000 quickly became one of the fastest growing and most popular weekly classical music programs on public radio. Broadcast on nearly 250 stations nationwide to an audience of more than 700,000 listeners each week, *From the Top* celebrates the amazing performances and captivating stories of America's best pre-college classical musicians. The show has been described by the *Boston Globe* as, "an entertaining, accessible and inspirational mix of outstanding musical performances, informal interviews, skits and games, the show is a celebration of extraordinary musicians who happen to be teenagers leading fairly normal lives."

In the past ten years, the independent non-profit has expanded its reach to include an Emmy-Award winning PBS television series, online media, and rich educational programming ranging from school and community outreach to music textbooks published by Macmillan/McGraw Hill. Annually, From the Top and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation award more than \$200,000 in scholarships to high achieving musicians with limited financial means. The program has invested more than \$1 million in support of pre-college students since 2005. In August 2009, *From the Top at the Pops* was released on the Telarc label, representing From the Top's first major collaboration with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra.

From the Top is made possible through grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. It is also supported through the generous contributions of individuals and foundations as well as public radio stations.

From the Top on NPR is produced in association with WGBH Radio Boston and New England Conservatory of Music, its home and education partner.

####

For a complete listing of repertoire and performance photographs, please contact Erin Haran MacCurtain at emaccurtain@fromthetop.org or 617-437-0707 x117.

Please visit www.fromthetop.org for more information.