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For Immediate Release,

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**COMPOSER ANTHONY SCOTT WATSON SELECTED FOR
TWIN FALLS, ID., CONTINENTAL HARMONY PROJECT
Artist Will Collaborate With Magic Valley Arts Council to Celebrate
Centennials of Communities Along the Snake River in South Central Idaho**

St. PAUL, Minn., February 11, 2003— The American Composers Forum announced today the next phase of Magic Valley Arts Council's participation as Idaho's representative in the Forum's nationwide *Continental Harmony* program. Magic Valley Arts Council has put together a coalition of community groups, including Buhl Arts Council, Twin Falls Municipal Band, and College of Southern Idaho Band to carry out the residency and have the music performed. Representatives from each of these organizations formed a committee that selected Anthony Scott Watson to write a piece to be performed by the Twin Falls Municipal Band and the College of Southern Idaho Band as a celebration of the communities celebrating centennials along the Snake River in South Central Idaho. The performance of Twin Falls' music will be July 4, 2004.

Continental Harmony has been launched by the American Composers Forum in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts as a way of bringing composers and communities across the country together for the creation of original musical works reflecting the unique history, culture and spirit of each community. Watson will begin his residency in Twin Falls by getting to know people, researching local history and culture, working with students, and making presentations to community groups of all sorts.

Anthony Scott Watson, of Coplay, PA, brings a strong background in composition and community engagement to Twin Falls' Continental Harmony project. No aspect of Watson's music is more important than its narrative line. Whether the drama is explicit, as in his *Aesop's Fables* for wind ensemble and narrator, or more abstract, as in his *Hymn and Declaration* for chamber orchestra, Watson's music has a strong sense of visual imagery. Having composed for concert, dance, radio, and theater,

(more)

Watson is drawn to projects that involve collaboration, and the chance to tell another story.

Watson's music is described as being "imaginative" (Pennsylvania Music Educators Association *Journal*) and "written with supreme craft" (*Percussive Notes*). Philip Metzger wrote: "Watson exhibited a great deal of skill in managing the resources of the orchestra. He knew how to produce interesting sounds...in the context of a very well-crafted piece...he will very likely become a force to be reckoned with (*The Morning Call*, April 12, 2000)." Watson's music is published by Trillanium Music Company, Shawnee Press, and Alfred Publishing Co.

Also an educator, Watson has taught instrumental music in the Parkland School District (Allentown, Pennsylvania) and been Assistant Professor of Music Theory and Technology at Temple University (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania).

Continental Harmony has been recognized as a model of local community artistic initiative. Each host site identifies a theme, an occasion, and local performers for a musical work that will be meaningful to its citizens. With the assistance of American Composers Forum, the community group then selects the composer best able to write the music and carry out the residency.

During the inaugural round of the program in the year 2000, American Composers Forum discovered that *Continental Harmony* projects bring people together, heighten community feeling and sense of place, and encourage the formation of collaborations among groups. At the same time the artistic resources of the area are often strengthened and validated. As a result of this inaugural round, Twin Cities Public Television created an award-winning documentary and website.

Continental Harmony is a leadership initiative of the American Composers Forum and the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional funding provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, and Marshall Field's Project Imagine with support from the Target Foundation.

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