



A M E R I C A N C O M P O S E R S F O R U M

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## ***Continental Harmony Encore: Music Bringing Communities Together***

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ST. PAUL, MINN: June 8, 2005 – Nine communities and composers across the nation have been chosen as participants in *Continental Harmony Encore*, a celebration of community through new music, organized by the American Composers Forum. This latest round of projects follows on the successful heels of Continental Harmony’s first season, which marked the nationwide millennial celebration.

“This program offers communities — from rural towns to metropolitan areas — the unique opportunity to be a part of new musical works which celebrate their history and culture,” says John Nuechterlein, President and C.E.O. of American Composers Forum. “These exceptional musical celebrations strengthen social bonds and renew the collective spirit.”

Small towns and big cities all across the nation recognize the community-building potential of *Continental Harmony*. Each community host selects its own composer, assuring that the artist’s skill and artistic style match the community’s needs. For *Continental Harmony Encore*, the American Composers Forum enabled communities to apply with composers already chosen. During the residency that follows, the composer interacts with people of all ages to learn about their community and share their experiences through the creative process. As the composer spends time getting to know the people and places, rich and meaningful relationships develop. The composer then writes music inspired by these experiences and helps local musicians prepare the composition for performance.

The program’s millennial celebration elicited responses from hundreds of communities across the nation, and nearly 1,000 composers applied for residencies in the 58 selected communities. The National Endowment for the Arts provided funding and the White House Millennium Council designated it as a White House Millennium Partner. Materials from the program — recordings, scores, publicity, and memorabilia — are now archived at the Library of Congress.

Based on the popularity and overwhelming success of the program’s first season, *Continental Harmony* will continue to touch the lives of people from all walks of life.

### **Community Selections**

The following communities have already been selected to participate in the latest round of Continental Harmony projects:

- Homer, Alaska
- New Britain, Connecticut
- Chicago, Illinois
- Keene, New Hampshire
- Geneseo, New York
- New York City (West Harlem), New York
- Ada, Oklahoma
- Springdale, Utah
- Ucross, Wyoming

### **About American Composers Forum**

The American Composers Forum pioneers projects that actively involve communities and composers. It facilitates residencies and new musical works that renew and fortify relationships between artists and the public. Headquartered in St. Paul, Minn., the Forum has six regional chapters across the country. Membership in the American Composers Forum is open to all.

*Continental Harmony Encore* 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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# Continental Harmony

Celebrating Communities Through Music



*Continental Harmony* brings composers and communities together in the creation of new music reflecting local history and culture.

- **Homer, Alaska** in collaboration with **composer Adrienne Albert**  
Three-movement work for chorus and orchestra celebrating the landscape and community of the Kenai Peninsula  
*Hosts:* Pier One Theatre and the Pratt Museum  
*Performers:* Kenai Peninsula Orchestra  
*Premiere:* Summer 2006-Spring 2007
- **New Britain, Connecticut** in collaboration with **composer Ken Steen**  
A multi-faceted work incorporating computer-based music, video, podcasting, and electronic instrument technologies together in a reflection of the community  
*Hosts:* The New Britain Museum of American Art  
*Performers:* New Britain High School Percussion Ensemble, e-cellist Jeffrey Krieger, and media artist Gene Gort  
*Premiere:* April 2006
- **Chicago, Illinois** in collaboration with **composer Evan Solot**  
“Underground Movements,” a soundscape for chorus, instrumentalists, dancers, and soloists  
*Hosts:* River North Chicago Dance Company  
*Performers:* Chicago Children’s Choir and local pre-professional musicians  
*Premiere:* November 2006
- **Keene, New Hampshire** in collaboration with **composer Lawrence Siegel**  
An evening length oratorio to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies  
*Hosts:* The Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies at Keene State College, Redfern Arts Center, Cities of Keene and sister city Einbeck, Germany  
*Performers:* Keene Chorale, baritone David Ripley, mezzo-soprano Jane Hansen, and participants from Keene State College  
*Premiere:* April 2008
- **Geneseo, New York** in collaboration with **composer Glenn McClure**  
An international alliance between Geneseo and Siena, Italy to celebrate scientist and musician Galileo  
*Hosts:* Town of Geneseo  
*Performers:* Madrigalia  
*Premiere:* Summer 2006
- **New York City (West Harlem), New York** in collaboration with **composer Ishmael Wallace**  
Work for multiple choirs and professional instrumentalists incorporating text culled from oral histories of area residents  
*Hosts:* St. Mary’s Episcopal Church  
*Performers:* St. Mary’s Gospel Choir, Howl Chorale, and Broadway Presbyterian  
*Premiere:* Fall 2006
- **Ada, Oklahoma** in collaboration with **composer Jerod Impichchaachaaha Tate**  
Work for orchestra and chorus celebrating the opening of a new cultural center for the Chickasaw Nation  
*Hosts:* Chickasaw Nation  
*Performers:* Chickasaw Children's Chorus, the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe, local Chickasaw storytellers, and the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra  
*Premiere:* TBD in 2007
- **Springdale, Utah** in collaboration with **composer Phillip Bimstein**  
“Red Rock Rondo,” a cycle of songs and musical portraits inspired by the geology and culture that characterizes this community  
*Hosts:* Mountain West Center for Regional Studies  
*Performers:* Local musicians  
*Premiere:* June 2006
- **Ucross, Wyoming** in collaboration with **composer Philip Aaberg**  
A musical exploration and celebration of the High Plains landscape and its communities.  
*Hosts:* Ucross Foundation  
*Performers:* Local musicians  
*Premiere:* July 4, 2006