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## *Continental Harmony* Premiere in Carlisle, Pa., Pennsylvania Festival Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with New Music

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St. PAUL, Minn., April 10, 2003— The Amani Festival in Carlisle, Penn., has a new dimension this year. To commemorate the festival's tenth anniversary, a new musical work will be premiered on May 3, 2003. Written especially for the occasion by composer Glenn McClure of Geneseo, N.Y., "Make Me a World" is the product of McClure's residency in Carlisle, made possible by the American Composers Forum's *Continental Harmony* program.

"It's exciting to be involved in making something new happen," said Dr. Brady Allred of Pittsburgh's Duquesne University, who will conduct the premiere. Along with singers from Duquesne, an instrumental ensemble of players from Korea, West Africa, India, Australia and the U.S., McClure himself will play the steel drums during the premiere. "This new work allows the musicians to improvise in their own tradition within the multi-ethnic fabric of the entire work," said McClure.

Rehearsing music about peace during a time of international conflict has made the experience profoundly moving for the participants. "We have worked hard to bridge the artistic gap between the cultures represented in this project," said the composer, who was chosen by the festival committee from a pool of applicants nationwide.

McClure's new piece weaves together many translations of the word "peace" into a driving, earnest rhythm. Over this rhythm, he adds a new poem, inspired by a line from James Weldon Johnson's poem, "Creation." The voice of this poem calls out an insistent, yearning plea to create a world of peace.

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In honor of the occasion, the U.S. Postal Service has created a commemorative cancellation for the festival's stamp, which will be issued on the day of the festival. The design, by local artist Laura Ibbotson, features an outline of the state of Pennsylvania with several notes from the composition by McClure, along with the festival logo.

McClure has emerged on the choral music scene with performances at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and several major events including the World Choral Symposium. Such leading conductors as Dr. Anton Armstrong of St. Olaf College and Dr. Andre Thomas of Florida State University have championed his music.

The Amani Festival, Carlisle's annual celebration of unity through diversity, celebrates peace between diverse cultures and religions. Since its inception, the festival has grown into a thriving event that attracts over 5,000 people annually.

*Continental Harmony* has been recognized as a model of local community artistic initiative. The initiative 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 together for the creation of original musical works reflecting the unique history, culture and spirit of each community. 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. To learn more about *Continental Harmony*, visit [www.continentalharmony.org](http://www.continentalharmony.org).

*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.*