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**COMPOSER JOSEPH CURIALE SELECTED FOR PHOENIX, Ariz.,
CONTINENTAL HARMONY PROJECT
Artist Will Collaborate With The Phoenix Symphony to
Celebrate the Diverse Cultural Heritage of Phoenix**

St. PAUL, Minn., February 20, 2003— The American Composers Forum announced today the next phase of The Phoenix Symphony's participation as Arizona's representative in the Forum's nationwide *Continental Harmony* program. The Phoenix Symphony has put together a coalition of community groups, including The City of Phoenix, Mariachi Alegre, Native Spirit Productions, Primavera Folklorico Dance Company, the Phoenix Symphony Guild Youth Orchestra, and the Phoenix Children's Chorus to carry out the residency and have the music performed. Representatives from each of these organizations formed a committee that selected **Joseph Curiale** to write a piece to be performed by The Phoenix Symphony and collaborating musicians and ensembles as a celebration of the diverse cultural heritage of Phoenix and its influence on the performing arts. The performance of Phoenix's music will be Spring 2004.

Joseph Curiale, of Southern California, brings a strong background in composition and community engagement to Phoenix's Continental Harmony project. Born July 1, 1955 in Bridgeport, CT, Curiale graduated from the University of Bridgeport where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education in 1976. He then attended North Texas State University with the intention of pursuing a Masters Degree in Composition, but instead took up residency in Japan where he taught and composed new music. After nearly 2 years in Japan, he moved to Los Angeles where he began a career in film, television, and recording, signing an exclusive six-year contract with Columbia Pictures, working with artists ranging from Michael and Janet Jackson to Kathleen Battle. Curiale will begin his residency in Phoenix by getting to know people, researching local history and culture, working with students, and making presentations to community groups of all sorts.

(more)

Continental Harmony was launched in 2000 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. *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.

The Phoenix Symphony is Arizona's only fulltime professional orchestra and the state's largest performing arts organization. The 75-member ensemble performs more than 250 subscription and community engagement concerts and presentations each year throughout the state of Arizona, from September through the beginning of June.

During the inaugural round of the program, 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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Joseph Curiale

In the early 90's, although enjoying success in Hollywood, including an Emmy Award nomination in the category of Musical Direction, Curiale felt the time came to write music without the limiting parameters commercial work demands. In 1995 he went to London to record "Gates of Gold" with The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and in April of 1997 a first CD entitled, "Awakening" was released. Greatly encouraged by the requests of Public Radio and its listeners, Joseph completed a second CD entitled, "The Music of Life" which was released December 2001. It features the London Symphony and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras as well as soloists from China and Japan. The recent re-release of the "Awakening" CD features a bonus track of "Blue Windows" performed by Doc Severinsen and Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields.

Curiale was honored at the Hollywood Bowl in a 2001 concert which featured a performance of "Gates of Gold Suite" conducted by John Mauceri as well as receiving a commission from the University of Wyoming and a Meet the Composer grant, resulting in the composition, "Wind River (I Am)". In 2002 he received Artist fellowships at both The MacDowell Colony and The Ucross Foundation.