



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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For Immediate Release,

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**COMPOSER DAVID CLEARY SELECTED FOR UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.,
CONTINENTAL HARMONY PROJECT
Artist Will Collaborate With Palmer Museum of Art To Celebrate Lewis and Clark
Bicentennial**

St. PAUL, Minn., March 18, 2002 — The American Composers Forum announced today the next phase of Palmer Museum of Art's participation as one of Pennsylvania's representatives in the Forum's nationwide Continental Harmony program. In the program, which has been widely recognized as a model of local community artistic initiative, each host site identifies a theme, an occasion, and local performers for an original 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 Palmer Museum of Art's selected composer David Cleary to write a piece for the Castalia Ensemble of the Pennsylvania State University School of Music. The work will be premiered on Nov. 16, 2002, as part of a national conference on the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, "Lewis and Clark: The Unheard Voices." The museum has put together a coalition of community groups, including The Castalia Ensemble, to carry out the residency and have the music performed. Cleary will begin his residency in University Park by getting to know people, researching local history and culture, working with students, and making presentations to community groups.

David Cleary, of Cambridge, Mass., brings a strong background in composition and community engagement to University Park's Continental Harmony project. Cleary, a composer, critic, cellist, and writer, received his doctor of musical arts from the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati. His composition teachers have included Donald Martino, Donald Harris, Thomas Pasatieri, Malcolm Peyton, Norman Dinerstein, and Mordechai Scheinkman.

(more)

Cleary's music has been played and broadcast widely throughout the U.S., Europe, and Australia, including festival performances at Tanglewood and Warebrook and commissions from Dinosaur Annex and Alea III. His works have attracted many awards, including a prize from the Harvey Gaul Contest, an Ella Lyman Cabot Trust grant, and a MacDowell residency. Carl Fischer publishes Cleary's piano accompaniments for the method book series "The ABCs of Strings." Long associated with the Composers in Red Sneakers as president and co-director, his biography appears in "Marquis Who's Who in America."

During the inaugural round of the program in the 2000, Continental Harmony projects brought people together, heightened community feeling and sense of place, and encouraged 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 Web site.

For an electronic version of David Cleary's picture, contact Patricia Shifferd, harmony@composersforum.org. To interview Cleary, contact him at (617) 495-2332.

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