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For Immediate Release,

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**COMPOSER GEOFFREY HUDSON SELECTED FOR GRAND FORKS, N.D.,
CONTINENTAL HARMONY PROJECT**

Artist Will Collaborate With Florida A&M University To Celebrate Black History Month

St. PAUL, Minn., March 13, 2002— The American Composers Forum announced today the next phase of North Dakota Museum of Art and the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra's participation as North Dakota's representative 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 North Dakota Museum of Art and the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra's have selected composer Geoffrey Hudson to write a piece for the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra and Chiara String Quartet. The new work will be a "conversation" between Western European and American Indian music, the latter as evidenced in the Northern Plains Powwow.

North Dakota Museum of Art and the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra has put together a coalition of community groups, including the University of North Dakota Native American Programs to carry out the residency and have the music performed. The premiere will be held in April 2003 to coincide with the annual Eastern North Dakota Powwow. Hudson will begin his residency in Grand Forks by getting to know people, researching local history and culture, working with students, and making presentations to community groups of all sorts.

(more)

Geoffrey Hudson, of Western Massachusetts, brings a strong background in composition and community engagement to Grand Forks' Continental Harmony project. Hudson's music has been performed across the United States and in Europe. Finding ways to reach beyond the concert hall and to integrate music into a broader social and cultural context is a major focus of his work. Towards this end, he has worked extensively with amateur performers and composed music for informal, non-concert performances. His music includes choral works, several sets of solo songs, chamber works for strings and piano, and orchestral works. His recent commissions include a film score for South Main Street Productions' (Providence, R.I.) adaptation of Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus", a concerto for viola and chamber ensemble premiered by the Contemporary Music Ensemble at Oberlin College, and three sacred choral works commissioned through the American Composers Forum's Faith Partners program.

Geoffrey Hudson received his undergraduate degrees from Oberlin College, where he studied American History and composition with Richard Hoffmann. He earned his masters degree at the New England Conservatory, where his principal teacher was Malcolm Peyton. In addition to his work as a composer, Hudson is a faculty member at Greenwood Music Camp (Cummington, Mass.) and music director of Quabbin Valley Pro Musica (new Salem, Mass.).

During the inaugural round of the program in the year 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 Geoffrey Hudson's picture, contact Patricia Shifferd, harmony@composersforum.org. To interview Hudson, contact him at (413) 634-0277.

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