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For Immediate Release,

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**COMPOSER GREG SANDERS SELECTED FOR GLASCO, KAN., CONTINENTAL
HARMONY PROJECT**

**Artist Will Collaborate With Solomon Valley-Highway 24 To Celebrate the Heritage and
Landscape of the Solomon River Valley**

St. PAUL, Minn., March 19, 2002 — The American Composers Forum announced today the next phase of Solomon Valley-Highway 24 Heritage Alliance's participation as one of Kansas' 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 Solomon Valley-Highway 24 Heritage Alliance selected composer Greg Sanders to write a piece for various high school musical ensembles as a celebration of heritage and landscape of the Solomon River Valley. The Alliance has put together a coalition of community groups, including The Nicodemus Historical Society, Stockton Area Arts Council, Glasco Chamber Pride, Downs Arts Council, and Cloud County Community College Department of Music, to carry out the residency and have the music performed. The performances of the finished work will be held at community festivals along the Solomon River Valley from spring through fall 2003. Sanders will begin his residency in Glasco by getting to know people, researching local history and culture, working with students, and making presentations to community groups of all sorts.

Greg Sanders, of Texas, brings a strong background in composition and community engagement to Glasco's Continental Harmony project. Sanders is currently Professor of Music at Texas A&M University-Kingsville where he serves as Coordinator of Theory/Composition Studies. He previously taught at Bradley University, Arkansas State University, and the University of North Texas. He has studied with an eclectic assortment of teachers including: Larry Austin, Jared Spears, Claude T. Smith, Francis McBeth, and Aaron Copland.

(more)

His music has been performed on almost every continent and in all 50 States. His numerous commissions include works for both professional and armature groups, as well as works for younger performance groups. His music is published by Southern Music, MMB Music, LarAsh Music, and American Composer's Alliance.

His music appeals to a wide spectrum of listeners as demonstrated by many favorable reviews and numerous awards. Honors include composition awards and grants from BMI, Texas Orchestra Directors Association, Sigma Alpha Iota, ASCAP, College Band Directors National Association, Phi Kappa Lambda, MENC, National Federation of Music Clubs, Music Teacher National Association, and the Lilly Foundation.

His "Prairie Dreams: The River's Echo" was a 1992 Pulitzer Prize finalist. Additional information about the composer and his music can be found at www.gregsanders.org.

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 Greg Sanders picture, contact Patricia Shifferd, harmony@composersforum.org. To interview Sanders, contact him at (361) 593-2156.

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