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**COMPOSER JAMES CLEMENS SELECTED FOR GEORGETOWN, S.C.,  
CONTINENTAL HARMONY PROJECT  
Artist Will Collaborate With Indigo Choral Society To Celebrate the Tidelands of  
Georgetown**

St. PAUL, Minn., March 13, 2002 — The American Composers Forum announced today the next phase of Indigo Choral Society's participation as South Carolina'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 Indigo Choral Society selected composer James Clemens to write a choral work celebrating the Tidelands of Georgetown. The Indigo Choral Society has put together a coalition of community groups, including the Conway, S.C. school system; Georgetown County School System; Georgetown County Public Library System; and Kaminski House Museum, to carry out the residency and have the music performed. The work will be premiered on July 4, 2003. Clemens will begin his residency in Georgetown by getting to know people, researching local history and culture, working with students, and making presentations to community groups.

James Clemens, of Downers Grove, Ill., brings a strong background in composition and community engagement to Georgetown's Continental Harmony project. Clemens grew up in the northern Indiana town of Goshen. While attending Goshen College, he played violin in the orchestra, sang with the Chamber Choir, studied organ, played piano with the jazz band, served as accompanist for choirs and soloists, performed on recorders and other Renaissance instruments with the Early Music Consort, and took erhu (a two-stringed violin) lessons in China.

(more)

Clemens has written instrumental and vocal solos, choir anthems, music for brass and percussion, pieces for string orchestra, and arrangements for various vocal and instrumental ensembles. Commissioned works are Clemens' favorite pieces to compose; working with the people who will be performing a new work is an exciting and gratifying process for him.

In addition to composing, Jim provides music typesetting services for companies and individuals, and he works as a freelance proofreader. He also enjoys playing viola with the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra.

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 James Clemens' picture, contact Patricia Shifferd, [harmony@composersforum.org](mailto:harmony@composersforum.org). To interview Clemens, contact him at 630-322-9408.*

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