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**COMPOSER JERRÉ TANNER SELECTED FOR CHARLOTTE, N.C.,
CONTINENTAL HARMONY PROJECT**

St. PAUL, Minn., March 13, 2002 — The American Composers Forum announced today the next phase of the Schiele Museum of Natural History and Gaston County Museum's participation as North 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 museums selected Jerré Tanner to write a piece for Gaston Symphonic Band. The work will explore the life of a major 19th-century American figure, Admiral Charles Wilkes. Schiele Museum of Natural History and Gaston County Museum have put together a coalition of community groups, including the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, to carry out the residency and have the music performed. The premiere will be held on February 22, 2003. Tanner will begin his residency in the Charlotte area by getting to know people, researching local history and culture, working with students, and making presentations to community groups.

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Tanner, of Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, brings a strong background in composition and community engagement to the Charlotte area's Continental Harmony project. He is an American composer of symphonic and operatic music. He studied orchestration with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Wayne Peterson at San Francisco State University, where Tanner earned his masters degree. He has received numerous awards and grants and awards. In 1997, the State of Hawaii awarded him its highest honor, the Artist Fellowship in Music Composition. He received two grants from the Hawaii Community Foundations to create settings of monarchy-period songs for solo voice and for men's, women's, and mixed choruses.

Tanner's vocal, choral, orchestral, symphonic band and chamber compositions have been performed by the Honolulu Symphony, l'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Civic Symphony Orchestra of Boston, the Wellesley Symphony, the Altoona and Nittany Valley (Pennsylvania) Symphonies, the Dubuque Symphony, the Hawaii Youth Symphony, the Uptown Opera (Spokane), the Spring Wind Quintet, and numerous choruses and concert bands.

During the inaugural round of the program in 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 Jerré Tanner's picture, contact Patricia Shifferd, harmony@composersforum.org. To interview Tanner, contact him at (808) 329-1478.

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