



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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Continental Harmony Premiere in Macy, Neb., New Composition Celebrates Bicentennial of the Omaha Nation's Harvest Festival Powwow, Lewis and Clark Expedition

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For Immediate Release

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St. PAUL, Minn., July 20, 2004—Composer Stacey Fox's original composition for the Omaha Nation School Band entitled "Huthuga" will be premiered Tuesday, August 24 at the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska's annual Harvest Festival Powwow in Macy. The concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the Omaha Flag Song and performances of music representative of the school and the native tradition. The performance is open to the public and free of charge. The piece was commissioned by the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Lied Center for the Performing Arts, and Kennedy Center Partners in Education as part of *Continental Harmony*, the national community-based composer residency program of American Composers Forum, St. Paul, Minn.

For hundreds of years, the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska has lived along what is now the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail. The tribe has a rich musical heritage — one that is documented in extensive transcriptions of 19th century music and continually updated by singers working in a living tradition.

In 2004, the tribe will commemorate the bicentennials of both the expedition and its own Harvest Festival Powwow. A part of this observance, Macy's *Continental Harmony* project will include a new band composition celebrating the Omaha Tribe's musical history and the ongoing vitality and importance of its musical traditions. Present and past members of the Omaha Nation School band will premiere the work as part of a community-wide celebration and band alumni reunion. Band director at Omaha Nation School and site host coordinator for this project John Mangan stated, "The local selection committee made the best possible choice in Stacey Fox for our project. Through her residencies at the school and community she touched the lives of many students and adults, and the public performance of *Huthuga* will bring this two-year project to an exciting climax."

Fox said, "The creative process for this composition has been one of experience and awe. The time I have spent creating and learning with and from the Omaha community has been rich in culture, tradition, creativity and laughter. The students at the Umonhon Nation Public School are bright, artistic and quite witty. The ensemble as well as the community has provided an ideal environment resulting in an

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enriching experience for all involved and the relationship between myself and the community will continue to grow long after the premiere. When the ensemble performs this piece, the drums will thunder, the dancers will spin and the universe itself will vibrate!" For more information visit www.staceyfox.com and click on "Umonhan Project" or www.continentalharmony.org

Continental Harmony has been recognized as a model of local community artistic initiative. The initiative has been launched by the American Composers Forum in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts as a way of bringing composers and communities together for the creation of original musical works reflecting the unique history, culture and spirit of each community. Each host site identifies a theme, an occasion, and local performers for a 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.

During the inaugural round of the program in the year 2000, American Composers Forum discovered that *Continental Harmony* projects bring people together, heighten community feeling and sense of place, and encourage 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 website.

Continental Harmony is a leadership initiative of the American Composers Forum and the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional funding provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, and Marshall Field's Project Imagine with support from the Target Foundation.

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