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For Immediate Release,

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**COMPOSER OLIVER LAKE SELECTED FOR TALLAHASSEE, FLA.,  
CONTINENTAL HARMONY PROJECT**

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

St. PAUL, Minn., July 22, 2002—The American Composers Forum announced today the next phase of Florida A&M University's participation as Florida's representative in the Forum's nationwide music program, *Continental Harmony*. 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.

Composer and noted jazz musician, Oliver Lake, of Montclair, New Jersey, has been chosen by Florida A&M University's Department of Music to write a piece for Tallahassee musicians from the university and community as a celebration of diversity in observance of Black History Month. Mr. Lake will begin his residency in Tallahassee by getting to know people, researching local history and culture, working with students, and making presentations to community groups of all sorts.

Mr. Lake brings a strong background in composition and community engagement to Tallahassee's *Continental Harmony* project. He is co-founder of the renowned World Saxophone Quartet. He has received a Guggenheim fellowship for composition, been commissioned by the Library of Congress and McKim Foundation, and been selected as composer in residence at Bloomfield College in Bloomfield, New Jersey as part of the New Residencies program of Meet The Composer. The recipient of numerous composition commissions, his music has been performed by many ensembles, both jazz and classical, including the Arditti String Quartet, World Sax Quartet, Amherst Sax Quartet, Regina Carter, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Wheeling Symphony, San Francisco Contemporary Players, New York New Music Ensemble, and Pulse Percussion Ensemble of New York. He has performed throughout the world, touring Africa, Japan, Australia and Europe. Lake has also performed and/or recorded and arranged for such diverse artists as pop singer Bjork, rocker Lou Reed, jazz vocalist Abbey Lincoln and the rap group, Tribe Called Quest. Since 1995 Oliver Lake has been performing a solo theater piece that he created, "Matador of 1st & 1st" directed by Oz Scott.

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Florida A&M University has put together a coalition of community groups, including The Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra and Monticello Opera House to carry out the residency and have the music performed. The performance of Tallahassee's music will be February 2003 at Florida A&M University and at the Monticello Opera House.

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.

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. Additional funds are provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Target Foundation.

*For an electronic version of Oliver Lake's picture, contact Patricia Shifferd, [harmony@composersforum.org](mailto:harmony@composersforum.org).*

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