

**CLAY CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND SCIENCES CHOSEN AS WEST VIRGINIA'S  
REPRESENTATIVE IN NATIONAL MUSIC COMMISSIONING PROGRAM**

**Composer will Collaborate with Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences to  
Celebrate Creativity, Exploration, Discovery, and Celebration**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For Further Information Contact Pat Shifferd at [pshifferd@composersforum.org](mailto:pshifferd@composersforum.org) or 651-251-2818**

ST. PAUL, MINN. – On the strength of a proposal submitted by Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences, Charleston has been selected to represent West Virginia in *Continental Harmony*, the national music commissioning program sponsored by American Composers Forum and the National Endowment for the Arts. Charleston is one of thirteen communities across the country chosen at a recent meeting in St. Paul of a national panel of experts in community-based arts. Cooperating with Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences in the project are West Virginia Symphony, West Virginia University at Parkersburg, and the communities of Charleston, Parkersburg, Lewisburg, Buckhannon and Morgantown.

This new group of 13 communities joins 15 others chosen last year. Over the next two years, communities in all 50 states will join the program. Descriptions of current projects—theme, performers, performance plans—along with information about the 58 communities who participated in the landmark millennial year inauguration of *Continental Harmony*, can be found at [www.continentalharmony.org](http://www.continentalharmony.org).

“This program offers communities — from rural towns to metropolitan areas — the unique opportunity to be a part of new musical works which celebrate their history and culture,” says Linda Hoeschler, executive director of American Composers Forum. “These exceptional musical celebrations strengthen social bonds and renew the collective spirit.”

Small towns and big cities all across the nation recognize the community-building potential of *Continental Harmony*. Each community host selects its own composer, assuring that the artist’s skill and artistic style match the community’s needs. During the residency that follows, the composer interacts with people of all ages to learn about their community and share their experiences through the creative process. As the composer spends time getting to know the people and places, rich and meaningful relationships develop. The composer then writes music inspired by these experiences and helps local musicians prepare the composition for performance.

The program, which began as a millennial celebration, has elicited responses from hundreds of communities across the nation. In the millennial celebration, nearly 1,000 composers applied for residencies in the 58 selected communities. The National Endowment for the Arts provided funding and the White House Millennium Council designated it as a White House Millennium Partner. Materials from the program — recordings, scores, publicity, and memorabilia — are now archived at the Library of Congress.

Based on the popularity and overwhelming success of the program’s first season, *Continental Harmony* will continue to touch the lives of people from all walks of life.

**Community Selections**

The following communities have been selected to participate in the latest round of *Continental Harmony* projects:

- Phoenix, Ariz.
- Denver, Colo.
- Twin Falls, Idaho
- Grinnell, Iowa.
- Louisville, Ky.
- Bangor, Maine.
- Ennis, Mont.
- Macy, Neb.
- Roswell, N.M.
- Portland, Ore.
- Montpelier, Vt.
- Newport, Wash.
- Charleston, W.Va.

(more)

**About American Composers Forum**

The American Composers Forum pioneers projects that actively involve communities and composers. It facilitates residencies and new musical works that renew and fortify relationships between artists and the public. Headquartered in St. Paul, Minn., the Forum has regional chapters in the San Francisco Bay Area, Boston, New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Southern Minn., Los Angeles, Atlanta, and the Washington D.C. area. Membership in the American Composers Forum is open to all.

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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*Editors Note: Interviews with American Composers Forum Executive Director Linda Hoeschler, or Continental Harmony Project Director Patricia Shifferd may be arranged by calling (651) 228-1407.*

**Attached:**

- Local Contacts for Participating Communities
- If you'd like electronic versions of the Continental Harmony poster art or logo, please contact Patricia Shifferd (651) 251-2818

**Communities**

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*Continental Harmony* brings composers and communities together in the creation of new music reflecting local history.

- **PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

Orchestral suite honoring the diverse cultural heritage of Phoenix, the Valley of the Sun.

**Hosts:** The Phoenix Symphony, City of Phoenix, Mariachi Allegre, Native Spirit Productions, Primavera Folklorico Dance Company, Phoenix Guild Youth Orchestra, and Phoenix Children's Chorus.

**Performers:** The Phoenix Symphony and guest artists.

- **DENVER, COLORADO**

An oratorio drawing inspiration from traditional Mexican musical forms to tell the story of the Westside Hispanic community of Denver.

**Hosts:** El Centro Su Teatro, Denver Inner City Parish, and La Escuela Tlatelolco.

**Performers:** The professional musicians of El Centro Su Teatro and students from neighborhood schools.

- **TWIN FALLS, IDAHO**

Work for concert band and narration, celebrating the landscape and people of the Snake River Valley.

**Hosts:** Magic Valley Arts Council, Buhl Arts Council, Twin Falls Municipal Band, and College of Southern Idaho Band.

**Performers:** Twin Falls Municipal Band, and College of Southern Idaho Band.

- **GRINNELL, IOWA**

A group of choral works on the theme of the changes affecting the people, farms, and communities of the Upper Midwest, in conjunction with "Roots of Renewal," an exhibition at the Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell College.

**Hosts:** Faulconer Gallery, The City of Grinnell, Grinnell High School Music Department, Grinnell College Music Department, Grinnell Renaissance, Grinnell Area Arts Council, and The Center for Prairie Studies.

**Performers:** School, college, and community choral groups.

- **LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**

Orchestral fanfare to celebrate the Falls of the Ohio River National Signature Event during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Celebration.

**Hosts:** Louisville Orchestra, Falls of the Ohio Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee, Carnegie Center for Art and History, and Filson Historical Society.

**Performers:** The Louisville Orchestra.

- **BANGOR, MAINE**

An orchestral work with sections for chorus and dance, celebrating the theme of "Back to the River: Discovering Bangor's Roots." The work will be performed at the new waterfront amphitheater.

**Hosts:** Bangor Symphony Orchestra, Maine Folklife Center, University of Maine Oratorio Society, Bangor Area Children's Choir, Bangor Public Library, Bangor Region Arts and Cultural Council, Robinson Ballet Company and Thomas School of Dance, University of Maine Museum of Art, Hudson Museum, and Maine Discovery Museum.

**Performers:** Bangor Symphony Orchestra with guest singers and dancers.

- **ENNIS, MONTANA**

A work for chorus and orchestra on the theme Celebration of Montana Youth. The work will be performed at the Fifth Annual Madison River Music Festival in April 2003.

**Hosts:** Madison Valley Cultural Corporation.

**Performers:** A chorus and orchestra comprised of local high school and college musicians, assisted by professional musicians from Southwest Montana.

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- **MACY, NEBRASKA**

A concert band work celebrating the traditions and heritage of the Omaha Tribe and representing its views for the future of its people.  
**Hosts:** The Omaha Tribe, The Omaha Nation School, and Lied Center for the Performing Arts.  
**Performers:** A band comprised of current and past members of the Omaha Nation School Band.
- **ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

A work for band that commemorates the sacrifices made during WWII by New Mexicans at the surrender and subsequent internment of American and Allied troops at Bataan in the Philippines.  
**Hosts:** REACH 2000, N.O.T.E. Council, Roswell Independent School District, and Roswell Museum and Art Center.  
**Performers:** An honor band comprised of Roswell and Goddard High Schools students.
- **PORTLAND, OREGON**

A work for the new music ensemble fEARnoMUSIC and guest vocalists on the theme of discovery. The work will be performed as part of Oregon’s commemoration of Lewis and Clark’s sojourn in the Pacific Northwest.  
**Hosts:** Fear No Music and the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial in Oregon.  
**Performers:** Fear No Music and guest vocalists.
- **MONTPELIER, VERMONT**

A score for a musical play celebrating the cultural and natural history of Barre, Vt. The play will be performed as the central event of the Two Rivers Center for Sustainability’s annual community cultural festival.  
**Hosts:** Food Works/Two Rivers Center for Sustainability and the Montpelier Historical Society.  
**Performers:** An ensemble of area folk musicians.
- **NEWPORT, WASHINGTON**

A score for “Downriver!!,” an original script about the explorations of David Thompson’s early 19th century visits to Pend Oreille County in Northeastern Washington.  
**Hosts:** CREATE, Pend Oreille River Arts Alliance, area school districts, and the Kalispel Tribe.  
**Performers:** Pend Oreille Players.
- **CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA**

A work for chamber ensemble and massed choirs from throughout West Virginia. The work will celebrate the opening of the new facility of the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences.  
**Hosts:** Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences; West Virginia Symphony; area jazz and traditional music ensembles; West Virginia University at Parkersburg; and the communities of Charleston, Parkersburg, Lewisburg, Buckhannon, Morgantown.  
**Performers:** Student and professional choirs from throughout the state accompanied by a chamber ensemble drawn from the West Virginia Symphony or other local ensembles.

**Community Host Contact Information**

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**Phoenix, Arizona**

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