



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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March 11, 2002

For Immediate Release,

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**COMPOSER RANDALL WOLFF SELECTED FOR AKRON, OH., CONTINENTAL
HARMONY PROJECT**

**Artist Will Collaborate With Akron Art Museum To Create Music Inspired By Art in the
Museum's Collection**

St. PAUL, Minn., March 11, 2002 — The American Composers Forum announced today the next phase of the Akron Art Museum's participation as one of Pennsylvania's representatives 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 Akron Art Museum has chosen Randall Woolf to write a piece for the Akron Symphony Orchestra. The work will celebrate, and be inspired by, artworks in the museum's collection. Akron Art Museum has put together a coalition of community groups, including Akron Symphony Orchestra to carry out the residency and have the music performed. The premiere will take place in the spring or fall of 2003 as part of the symphony's concert season. Woolf will begin his residency in Akron, getting to know people, researching local history and culture, working with students, and making presentations to community groups of all sorts.

Randall Wolff, of New York, brings a strong background in composition and community engagement to Akron's Continental Harmony project. He composes music for orchestra, digital audio, dance, video and concert. It is this combination of elements that will be found in his Continental Harmony work, a piece combining electronic and traditional symphonic sounds, reflecting his personal reactions to the collection of works in the Akron Art Museum.

Woolf is a member of the Common Sense Composers Collective, a group of eight emerging composers on both coasts who are exploring new ways of developing and performing new works. Recent commissions include "Late Night Drive" for the Kentucky Symphony, a work for piano and percussion for Evelyn Glennie, and a theatrical work for flutist Ransom Wilson's Lincoln Center recital.

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Woff received doctorate in composition from Harvard University and studied privately with David Del Tredici. His major awards include the Charles Ives Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Paul Jacobs Commission for an orchestral work from the Tanglewood Institute.

During the inaugural round of the program in the year 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 Randall Woolf's picture, contact Patricia Shifferd, harmony@composersforum.org. To interview Mr. Woolf, contact him at randywoolf@aol.com.

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