



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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**COMPOSER STEPHEN MELILLO SELECTED FOR ROSWELL, N.M.,
CONTINENTAL HARMONY PROJECT
Artist Will Collaborate With REACH2000 and the N.O.T.E. Council to
Commemorate the Surrender of Allied Troops in Bataan**

St. PAUL, Minn., February 20, 2003— The American Composers Forum announced today the next phase of REACH2000's participation as New Mexico's representative in the Forum's nationwide *Continental Harmony* program. REACH2000 has put together a coalition of community groups, including the N.O.T.E. Council, Roswell Independent School District, and the Roswell Museum and Art Center to carry out the residency and have the music performed. Representatives from each group formed a committee that selected Stephen Melillo to write a piece to be performed by the Honor Band of Roswell and Goddard High Schools with the combined senior choirs from both schools. The piece will be a commemoration of the sacrifices of New Mexicans in World War II, in particular the events surrounding the surrender of members of the 200th and 500th Coast Artillery units at Bataan in the Philippines. The performance of Roswell's music will be April 2004.

Continental Harmony 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 across the country together for the creation of original musical works reflecting the unique history, culture and spirit of each community. Melillo will begin his residency in Roswell by getting to know people, researching local history and culture, working with students, and making presentations to community groups of all sorts.

Stephen Melillo, of Smithfield, VA brings a strong background in composition and community engagement to Roswell's Continental Harmony project. Melillo's more than 900 works range from interactive video scores to three symphonies commissioned by Gerhardt Zimmerman and the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra, a Concerto for Violin & Orchestra composed for Anne Akiko Meyers, and

(more)

over 11 hours of Music for Wind & Percussion Ensembles of the 3rd Millennium.

His scoring work includes 12 feature films, numerous documentaries and Music that has appeared on 28 network television programs. He scored the *Academy-Award-nominated 12:01PM* and the *Emmy-nominated Actress Works*. Melillo's film-scoring text, *Music To Picture* was completed during the scoring and orchestration of *Academy Award-nominated 12:01PM*. Melillo implemented the film-scoring program at the State University of New York at Purchase. As author of *MIDIMAST*, sponsored by the Ford Foundation, he trained teachers and taught inner-city students mathematics and science concepts via musical composition.

Simply by word-of-mouth, Melillo's pioneering, self-publishing entity known as **STORMWORKS** has gone from 0 to thousands of worldwide renderings in just 4 years.

Melillo is a many-times recipient of ASCAP Special Awards in Concert Music and has guest conducted and recorded with some of the worlds finest ensembles. His students now enjoy a range of musical careers as teachers, and professional musicians in an eclectic range from television jazz bands to studio musicians to members of major symphony orchestras. Melillo studied conducting with Jens Nygaard and Atilio Poto, a student of Arturo Toscanini. Varied educators, conductors and commissioning parties have termed Melillo's work "*a new voice in the direction of music.*"

Continental Harmony has been recognized as a model of local community artistic initiative. 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.