



A M E R I C A N C O M P O S E R S F O R U M

NATIONAL OFFICE:

332 Minnesota Street, Suite E-145 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-1300 USA

Telephone: [651] 228-1407 • Fax: [651] 291-7978

E-mail: [mail@composersforum.org](mailto:mail@composersforum.org) • Web site: [www.composersforum.org](http://www.composersforum.org)

April 28, 2003

For Immediate Release,

For more information, contact:

Patricia Shifferd at American Composers Forum, 651-251-2818

[harmony@composersforum.org](mailto:harmony@composersforum.org)

Dell Courtney at Falls of the Ohio Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee, 502-292-0059

[dellcourtn@aol.com](mailto:dellcourtn@aol.com)

**COMPOSER GARY POWELL NASH SELECTED FOR LOUISVILLE, Ky.,  
CONTINENTAL HARMONY PROJECT**

**Artist Will Collaborate With Louisville Orchestra to Celebrate the  
Falls of the Ohio as the Foundation for the Lewis and Clark Expedition**

St. PAUL, Minn., April 28, 2003— The American Composers Forum announced today the next phase of Falls of the Ohio Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee's participation as Kentucky's representative in the Forum's nationwide *Continental Harmony* program. The committee put together a coalition of community groups including the Louisville Orchestra, Carnegie Center for Art and History, and the Filson Historical Society to carry out the residency and have the music performed. Representatives from each of these organizations formed a committee that selected Gary Powell Nash to write a piece to be performed by The Louisville Orchestra. The performance of Kentucky's music will be October 25, 2003.

*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. Nash will begin his residency in Louisville by getting to know people, researching local history and culture, working with students, and making presentations to community groups of all sorts.

Gary Powell Nash brings a strong background in composition and community engagement to Kentucky's Continental Harmony project. Nash, a native of Flint, Michigan is Associate Professor of Music at Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi where he teaches theory and composition, conducts the clarinet ensemble and is Assistant to the Director of Bands. Nash is wholeheartedly committed to the unifying power of music. As a composer, he views himself not only as a creative artist but also an artistic ambassador, educator and most of all, communicator. As a musician, his main

(more)

objective is to interact and interface with as many people as possible. His primary ambition is to instill in all people an awareness of music's important role in the enrichment of the human spirit through composition.

As stated in a review, Nash's music is bright, strongly rhythmic and shaped by his musical roots and traditions in the African-American community. He is able to abstract blues/gospel/jazz elements and infuse these morphs into a solid, crafted style based on Western classical disciplines with a keen understanding of instrumentation and a particularly wonderful sensitivity to all types of instruments. Audiences are affected by the intense, dramatic power of his style and the intellect behind the music.

The Louisville Orchestra has a history of providing world-class performances to the greater Louisville community. In 2000-01 the orchestra won the Leonard Bernstein Award for Education Programming. This prestigious award is given to only one orchestra in the nation annually, and is only awarded after a rigorous and competitive analysis of Education Programs from orchestras throughout the nation.

*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.*

###