

**MEDIA ADVISORY
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Friendship Ambassadors Foundation
Announces a *NEW* International Choral Festival in Manhattan:
The Rhythms of One World 2012 June 24- July 1, 2012
Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Mutual Understanding

April 5, 2011 Greenwich, CT - **GREENWICH-BASED FRIENDSHIP AMBASSADORS FOUNDATION (FAF; WWW.FAF.ORG) ANNOUNCED A NEW INTERNATIONAL CHORAL CELEBRATION “THE RHYTHMS OF ONE WORLD 2012” AT THE RECENT AMERICAN CHOIR DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO LAST MONTH. THE RHYTHMS OF ONE WORLD FESTIVAL WILL TAKE PLACE FROM JUNE 24 – JULY 1, 2012 IN NEW YORK CITY TO CELEBRATE CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING THROUGH ARTISTIC EXCHANGE, SPECIFICALLY THROUGH CHORAL SINGING.**

The Festival’ Opening Concert will feature international choirs at UN headquarters on June 26, 2012. The 26th of June celebrates the anniversary of the signing of the original UN Charter: “We the Peoples.” International choirs are especially invited to participate in this large-scale event in New York for the facts that it will a) bring together hundreds of voices in the name of peace, b) bring a cultural voice to an important UN event, and c) take place one week prior to the World Choir Games, scheduled in 2012 for Cincinnati, Ohio.

Concerts will take place in prestigious venues throughout Manhattan; workshops will be led by internationally recognized choir directors; and a massed choral concert performance will be staged at the conclusion of the festival, uniting the participants through a musical sharing – a true hallmark of any FAF ‘peace through the arts’ program. A finale concert will be dedicated to the United Nations and the challenges it faces in peacekeeping, peace-building, and global development through the 8 Millennium Development Goals.

“The vision for the Festival is to explore the role of music as the universal language, promoting intercultural understanding, brotherhood, and peace between nations,” explains Festival Manager and FAF Artistic Director Yin-Chu Jou. “The Festival will bring together youth and adult choirs from all continents performing indigenous folkloric singing with choreography, regional sacred, contemporary, and even national pop choral music in this rare choral celebration.” About the international choirs already scheduled to appear, she added: “they include the Kearsney Choir, a renowned folkloric, mixed race youth choir from South Africa, the Far Eastern University Chorale from the Philippines, and the Appalachian Children’s Chorus from the USA, to name a few.”

The Artistic Director of *The Rhythms of One World Festival 2012* is Emmy Award winning composer Gary Fry. Mr. Fry has composed for film, television, live theater, ballet, more than 2500 radio and television commercials, and received a 2006 Emmy Award for his work for Chicago’s CBS affiliate WBBM-TV. Significant credits include his position as arranger/composer for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s Welcome, Yule! Holiday concerts since 1996, artistic consultant to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, with nearly 100 commissions from those orchestras and others from around the nation. Children’s choirs under his direction have performed at the White House, the United Nations, the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and Carnegie Hall.

For interviews or more on the upcoming schedule, please contact Festival Manager Ms. Jou at 203-542-0652.

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