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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Symphony for 1,000 Drums makes Colorado Debut **World renown composer Halim El-Dabh to lead massive piece**

Fort Collins, Colo. – Calling all Drummers!!

Drummers of all styles, skill levels and ages are invited to join the sound of one thousand drums for the Colorado premiere of Symphony for 1000 Drums to be performed later this summer.

The Symphony for 1000 Drums will be conducted on August 22 in Fort Collins under the direction of world-renown composer Halim El-Dabh.

The symphony is on the opening day of festivities celebrating the Peace Corps and its volunteers. A Peace Corps Celebration, August 22-24, is hosted by local Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and by Beet Street, the Fort Collins Downtown Development Authority's arts and humanities initiative. The city has significant ties to the birth of Peace Corps.

Among the noted professionals joining the performance are Afro-Brazilian sensation Marcos Santos, Colorado's own John Galm, Cameron Powers, Gayan Gregory Long and Eric Hollenbeck. Past participants have included Jim Donovan of Rusted Root, *Drum!* magazine Drummer of the Year Bobby Sanabria, and internationally recognized doumbek master Raquy Danziger.

Hundreds of other drummers will collaborate to bring the diversity of rhythmic sound, from marching band to ethnic/world percussion, orchestral, rock and drum circle styles.

At age 87, Egyptian-born El-Dabh continues to write at a frenetic pace for opera, orchestra, electronica and beyond. His music, heard every morning since 1961 at the Great Pyramids at Giza, is a synthesis of modernity and the ancient. He has collaborated with such notables as Martha Graham, John Cage and Leonard Bernstein and is a professor emeritus of Pan-African Studies at Kent State University in Ohio.

"The Symphony for 1000 Drums is more than just music. The intent is to raise the vibration of the planet, to bring balance, healing and beauty. Beyond that, the great people who participate and the elements drawn from the community and incorporated into the production make this experience unique and splendorous," said Grant Marquit, producer and artistic director.

Drummers with a passion for creativity and new experiences are invited to be a part of this once in a lifetime opportunity. For more information about joining the Symphony for 1,000 Drums please visit www.drumsymphony.com or contact Marquit directly at grant@drumsymphony.com or 216.215.5058.

Information about the Peace Corps Reunion is available at <http://beetstreet.org/Peace-Corps-Reunion>.

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ABOUT BEET STREET

Beet Street is an economic development initiative created by the Fort Collins Downtown Development Authority in 2007 to distinguish Old Town Fort Collins as a cultural destination that fosters, celebrates, and inspires human creativity through diverse cultural experiences and programming. Beet Street will create a collaborative learning community in Fort Collins, Colorado, where everyone of every age is welcome to share in discussion, reflection, and creative expression.