



# Musicopia

Educational Adventures in Music

Formerly Strings for Schools

**Musicopia Brings a Community Partnership Music Project to the Rose Tree-Media School District: Story-telling trio, Auricolae, will present the WORLD PREMIERE of a composition by Kile Smith, thanks to generous funding from the American Composers Forum and a PA Dept of Community and Economic Development grant secured with the help of Representative Thomas Killion. Auricolae will perform Mr. Smith's new setting of *The Bremen Town Musicians* on June 9, 2008, at Media Elementary School and June 12, 2008, at Glenwood Elementary School. Mr. Smith, the composer, will participate in the performances.**

Musicopia, a non profit organization, provides and promotes music education programs in hundreds of Delaware Valley schools each year by partnering with schools and other local arts organizations to bring cultural activities to young people. For over twenty years, Musicopia has brought interactive music assembly and workshop programs to students throughout the Rose Tree-Media School District, with a record number presented this year, thanks to generous funding from a PA Dept of Community and Economic Development grant secured with the help of Representative Thomas Killion. When composer Kile Smith and Musicopia's rostered trio Auricolae (which means "little ears" in Latin) won a prestigious Community Partners grant from the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Composers Forum for a new work by Mr. Smith, Musicopia chose Rose Tree-Media as the perfect locale for this work's debut performances.

The American Composers Forum Community Partners Program places composers in collaborative residencies with community, cultural, and educational organizations to create new works designed around the needs of their specific communities. Consequently, in the second week of June, Mr. Smith will be on hand for Auricolae's premiere of his witty and charming work, *The Bremen Town Musicians*; the program will include other settings of folk tales, fables and fairy tales previously commissioned for Auricolae with generous support from the American Composers Forum. Mr. Smith will talk about the art and craft of composition.

Musicopia is delighted to work with Kile Smith on this project. Mr. Smith is one of the most active of Philadelphia-area composers, and his many orchestral, chamber, and vocal works have won increasing praise from audiences and critics alike for their emotional power, direct appeal, and strong voice. The Philadelphia Inquirer calls his music "boldly lighted and brilliant," "emotion-laden," and "particularly American," and praised his "rich-voiced sonorities that created engaging musical constructions." We are confident that Mr. Smith will bring insight and inspiration to the students of Rose Tree-Media School District, as will Auricolae, led by David Yang, violist, narrator and founding director of the group, who is admired for his intensity, honesty of musical expression, and passionate communication. As an active advocate of new music, Mr. Yang has commissioned and premiered dozens of works in the last few years and is also founder and president of the Philadelphia Viola Society as well as being Director of Chamber Music at the University of Pennsylvania.

Musicopia's programs seek to encourage greater cultural participation on the part of students and families throughout the Philadelphia area. With staunch support by **American Composers Forum, the Office of Community and Economic Development, and Representative Thomas Killion's Office**, Musicopia is confident that these gifted musicians, who are also dedicated educators, will bring a completely novel awareness of the power of music to express and tell stories to Rose Tree-Media's students.

**Interested members of the community are welcome to attend these inspiring programs. To attend, please speak with representatives of the appropriate school(s) in advance and with Musicopia's Managing Director, Dierdre Woody (who is also a graduate of Rose Tree-Media School District) at 215-829-9522. Program dates and times are: Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 and 2:00 pm at Media Elementary School and Thursday June 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 & 11:00 am at Glenwood Elementary School.**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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