MACDOWELL CLUB OF MILWAUKEE

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MUSIC CLUB PRESENTS WORLD PREMIERE – AND MORE!

When: 2:30 Sunday aftemoon, 8 March 2009
Where: Joan Steele Stein Center for Communications / Fine Arts
Cardinal Stritch University, 6801 North Yates Road, Fox Point

Milwaukee, WI – The MacDowell Club of Milwaukee is commemorating its centennial by presenting monthly concerts featuring works of composers with ties to the community. Each program has a world premiere– this month it's *Essay for Harp* by composer/conductor **Cary John Franklin**, written in 2000 during his residency here. He is the immediate past-president of the American Composers Forum and the recipient of numerous awards, including N.E. A. and Meet the Composer Fellowships. Now on the faculty of Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, he has been Music Director of the Civic Orchestra of Minneapolis for over a decade and has served as Assistant Music Director to Dale Warland and Philip Brunelle. Performing the piece – which was commissioned for her 40th birthday -- will be Milwaukee native **Victoria Drake**, a free-lance harpist and recording artist based in New York. A frequent participant in numerous summer music festivals, her career has taken her to France, Israel, England, Japan and across the U.S. for orchestral, chamber music and solo performances.

Milwaukee pianist and pedagogue **Dolores Lenore** , now residing in the Twin Cities, is returning for this concert to play the *Sonata for Flute and Piano* by her son, composer **Joseph Makholm.**. Appearing with her will be **Kristine Kautzman,** a flutist and a member of St. Paul's professional vocal group, *The Rose Ensemble*. Makholm, a resident of France since 1982, teaches jazz composition and arranging at the Bill Evans Piano Academy in Paris and directs a series of lecture/ concerts sponsored by the 20th Arrondissement. He attended UW-Milwaukee, the Berklee College of Music in Boston, and graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music with a Master's Degree in composition.

Local composer **Wallace McClain Cheatham** will be accompanying Milwaukee mezzo **Christine O'Meally** performing his *Umukoro Songs*. Internationally recognized musician and scholar, Cheatham's published compositions span a variety of genres and have been performed in national and international settings. He is a subject of biographical record in Who's Who in the World and Who's Who in American Education. Ms. O'Meally is known for a wide variety of roles - from soloist to opera to the minimalism of Philip Glass and whose voice is "an amazing instrument" according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

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Another local composer of considerable note being represented on this program is **Geoffrey Gordon.** A resident of Cedarburg, his latest commission is a major work for the Parker String Quartet to be premiered in New Yorkthis spring. Gordon is the recent recipient of a month-long working retreat at the Aaron Copland House in Cortlandt Manor, NY, the home of performances and such residencies since 1998. Performing his trio, *Bright White Smooth*, will be flutist **Marie Sander**, a founding member of Milwaukee's contemporary music ensemble, **Brek Renzelman**, violist and recording artist of the Kepler String Quartet which is dedicated to preserving the Ten String Quartets of composer Ben Johnson, and the above mentioned harpist, **Victoria Drake**.

With a nod to American composers of the last century, Wauwatosa pianist, studio teacher and immediate past-president of the MacDowell Club of Milwaukee, **Mariann Landa** will perfom works of **Mrs. H. H. A. (Amy) Beach** (1867-1944). Mequon's **Enid-Ann Bootzin Berkovits,** a soprano in her own right, will direct the **Milwaukee Jewish Community Chorale** in two pieces by the Club's namesake, **Edward A. MacDowell** (1860-1908). Both prolific composers, they were among the first American composers to achieve international recognition. Berkovits' Chorale has garnered rave reviews at the North American Chorale Festival in Hudson, NY, and has performed in Chicago, at Lincoln Center in New York City, and has established itself as a provider of Jewish music throughout Wisconsin.

Choral works of Milwaukee organists and composers **Dennis Janzer** and **C. Christian Rich** are also on the program. Dr. Janzer is now on the music faculty of the University of Miami, FL, having completed its Doctor of Musical Arts program in Theory and Composition last year. **Rich** holds a Masters Degree in Music and Lit;urgy from the University of Notre Dame. He has been Director of Music & Liturgy and Instructor of Pastoral Studies at Sacred Heart School of Theology since 1978 where he directs the three vocal ensembles that sing regularly for chapel services. Rich is also the organist and choir director for the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee. Both Janzer and Rich are members of the American Guild of Organists.

This is the sixth of the MacDowell Club's 99th celebratory concerts commemorating its century of music-making in the Milwaukee community. Although donations are warmly accepted, the public is invited to attend at no charge. The concert takes place at 2:30 Sunday afternoon, March 8th, 2009, in the Joan Steele Stein Center for Communications / Fine Arts, 6801 North Yates Road, Fox Point. The building is easily reached via the northern-most entrance from North Yates Road or from Port Washington Road just south of Good Hope Road. Ample free parking is available in Lots 5 and 8 located in the center of the Cardinal Stritch University campus.

For additional information, call 262-512-0909 or 414-771-5832. *(Please do not call the University.)*

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Photos attached of Victoria Drake, Christine O'Meally and Wallace Cheatham

Images of Cary John Franklin and Geoffrey Gordon available on their websites