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DATED: 23 APRIL 2009

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MUSIC CLUB CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

When: 7:30 Tuesday, 19 May 2009

Where: Woman's Club of Wisconsin Athenaeum, 813 E. Kilbourn Avenue, Milwaukee

Milwaukee WI – The MacDowell Club of Milwaukee commemorates its 100th Anniversary with the final concert of its season-long Centennial Celebration, “100 Years of Music-Making in Milwaukee”, on Tuesday, May 19th. Being held on the actual date of its founding a century ago, the Club returns to the site of its historical beginning and countless performances over the years - the Athenaeum of the Woman's Club of Wisconsin - and proudly presents the world premiere of a work especially commissioned for the occasion. The catalyst for a major portion of this year's programming was finding works of Milwaukee-based composers, thus three years ago, the Club selected Wauwatosa native, **Michael Torke**, to write a song cycle for voice and piano in honor of the occasion. Choosing a biblical text, his composition *Song of Ecclesiastes* was completed in January and the celebrated Milwaukee-based baritone, UWM music faculty member **Kurt Ollmann**, will be the soloist with the composer at the keyboard.

Torke also served as the catalyst for the rest of this concert. Opening the program, the **Milwaukee Choral Artists** will pay tribute to the Club's namesake by singing *Summer Wind* by Edward MacDowell (1860-1908), and *Canticle of the Creatures* by **Sr. Theophane Hytrek** (1915-1992), Torke's first composition teacher. Another of his Milwaukee mentors, **John Downey** (1927-2003), will be represented by Downey's *Portrait #3* performed by Whitefish Bay's flutist **Marie Sander** and pianist **Neil Bubke**. Also heard will be Hytrek's *Prelude and Allegro* featuring MSO oboist **Margaret Butler** and Waukesha pianist **Robbi Heighway-Nebel**. A meet-the-artists reception will follow.

Although donations will be gratefully accepted, this gala event is open to the public at no charge and is scheduled to begin at 7:30 upstairs in the elegant Athenaeum at 813 East Kilbourn Avenue. First come first served parking is available in the lot just south of the Woman's Club of Wisconsin and accessible from North Cass Street. (Please note that reservations would be appreciated for the meet-the artists reception immediately following the concert.) For reservations or further information, contact Enid Bootzin Berkovits via singenid@sbcglobal.net or 262-512-0909 or by calling Judith Pilon 414-258-4668. (*Please do not call the Womens's Club of Wisconsin.*)

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