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Sharon Hansen and Roger Ruggeri to Address Music Club

Milwaukee, WI – The 100th Annual Meeting of the MacDowell Club of Milwaukee and Fall Luncheon will feature not one but two distinguished members of the musical community: Choral director **Sharon Hanson** and bassist **Roger Ruggeri**. The event is scheduled for 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon, September 13, 2009, at Cardinal Stritch University, 6801 North Yates Road, Fox Point.

The luncheon will be held in the glass-lined lobby of the Nancy Kendall Theater located in the Joan Steele Stein Center for Communication Studies/Fine Arts (located on the north section of the Stritch campus and adjacent to ample free parking in Lots 5 and 8.) Reservations are \$25, due by Friday, September 4th. Checks, made payable to the MacDowell Club of Milwaukee, go to Hospitality Chair **Kay Augustine**, 7934 West Kathryn Avenue, Milwaukee WI 53218-3726.

Sharon Hansen is founder and music director of the Milwaukee Choral Artists and Professor and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Widely known as a conductor and master teacher throughout the United States and in Europe, Hansen holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and is listed in *Who's Who in Entertainment*, *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in the World*. Her talk, "Women, Conductors, and the Academy: Who's on First?", will reveal her latest project, a segment of the book entitled, *Wisdon, Wit, and Will: Women Choral Conductors on their Art*, which is about creating the best possible experiences for students of choral conducting and choral singers.

"A Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra 50-Year Retrospective" will be Roger Ruggeri's subject. He will have much to share with us as the MSO is currently celebrating its 50th Anniversary! Ruggeri joined the Milwaukee Symphony in 1962 and served as Principal Double Bassist from 1963 until stepping back from that position in 2005. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, Ruggeri has been featured as a soloist and a composer with a number of organizations, including the MSO and the Grand Teton Music Festival (WY).

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Ruggeri has taught at Southern Methodist University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and is active as a composer, program annotator and lecturer. Since beginning as the MSO's program annotator in 1968, he has gone on to provide concert notes for major arts organizations throughout the country. Ruggeri is a former vice-president of the International Society of Bassists, a past Double Bass Forum Editor for the *American String Teacher*, and has served as a panelist-consultant to the Music Program of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Wisconsin Arts Board.

During the brief business meeting, Club members **Alysanne Burkhardt** (Sister Bay, WI) and **Jane Shapiro** (Glendale, WI) will be presented with 25-year pins, and pianist and revered teacher, **June Dittl** (Delafield, WI), will be honored for her 50 years of continuous membership.

The luncheon also opens the 100th season of concerts by performing members of the MacDowell Club of Milwaukee and to which the public is most cordially invited to attend. Six in all, they will be held at various venues throughout the greater Milwaukee area at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoons during the coming season. The first will be present the Club's newest members and the winning compositions of the MacDowell Club's **Young Composers Competition**. It will be held at Cardinal Stritch University's Kendall Theater on Sunday afternoon, October 25, 2009 at 3 o'clock,

The MacDowell Club supports and encourages musical accomplishment and is open to all. Musicians interested in auditioning as performing members may contact the Membership Chair **Marilyn Eisenberg** at 414-332-3234 or via e-mail at merzy@earthlink.net. To join as a non-performer, simply send \$25 in annual dues to the MacDowell Club of Milwaukee, c/o Treasurer **Barbara Bunge**, 5860 Fulham Court, Greendale WI 53219. For questions, contact Board Advisor **Suzanne Pajunen**, 414-771-5832 or pajunens@earthlink.net. Please do not call Cardinal Stritch University.

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