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MUSIC CLUB RECEIVES \$5000 HELEN BADER FOUNDATION GRANT

Milwaukee, WI – The MacDowell Club of Milwaukee has been awarded \$5000 from the Helen Bader Foundation to help support expenses connected to its YOUNG COMPOSER COMPETITION and make possible the advertising and promotion of its current *Centennial Celebration: 100 Years of Music-Making in Milwaukee*.

In the fall of 2008, as a special component of its Centennial Celebration, the MacDowell Club announced a competition for Wisconsin composers, age 25 and under, for a four-part choral work suitable for small high school or chamber choirs. The entries, due January 1st, 2009, were judged by three highly-qualified choral conductors. Three of the compositions were deemed meritorious and their composers received prizes of \$1500, \$1000 and \$750. Respectively, the winners were Minh-Tam Trinh, 15, of Whitefish Bay; Emily Cooley, 19, of Mequon; and Chelsea Komschlies of Appleton. All three compositions will be given their world premieres on a MacDowell Club concert this coming fall.

In addition, to commemorate the actual 100th anniversary of its founding, the Club has commissioned a song cycle from Wauwatosa native Michael Torke, a contemporary composer of wide acclaim, now based in New York City. The work, *Song of Ecclesiastes*, will receive its premiere performance on May 19th, 2009, at the Woman's Club of Wisconsin Athenaeum, performed by the distinguished Milwaukee baritone, Kurt Ollmann, with the composer at the keyboard.

The May concert will conclude the special series of programs designed specifically for this celebratory season. Each has featured a piece by the Club's namesake, Edward MacDowell (1860-1908), the first American composer to attain international recognition; each has presented local artists with a broad variety of compositions by American composers; and each has introduced audiences to a world premiere and several works by composers with ties to Milwaukee.

The MacDowell Club is grateful to the Helen Bader Foundation for its assistance in making much of the above possible. The Foundation supports innovative projects and programs that advance the well-being of people and promote successful relationships with their families and communities. With offices in Milwaukee and

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Jerusalem, the Foundation awards an average of \$1 million per year in grants, totaling more than \$179 million in grants since 1992.

“It is very rewarding to have the MacDowell Club of Milwaukee recognized by the Helen Bader Foundation”, said Suzanne Pajunen, the Club’s president and chair of its Young Composer Competition. “The many facets of our centennial celebration took countless hours of planning and to receive such support is heart-warming indeed. Guided by the Club’s unchanged mission, we hope our programs continue to enrich the lives of the entire community, musicians and audiences alike, for another 100 years.”

Founded in May of 1909 by 40 women determined to make their mark on local musical stages, the MacDowell Club of Milwaukee soon grew into “the hottest ticket in town” following the establishment of its all-woman orchestra and season-long classical music recitals by Milwaukee’s most accomplished artists. During thesecond half of the 20th Century, the city’s cultural cornucopia expanded and began to shade the Club’s contributions to Milwaukee’s musical offerings. That the Club has mounted such an outstanding 99th season is a testament to the devotion and tenacity of its members. “Dedicated to furthering musical interests in Milwaukee, providing an incentive for progressive work for both professional and amateur musicians, and to acquaint the public with the number and excellence of local musicians”, the venerable organization’s membership now includes musicians of both genders and its concerts are free and the public is welcome.

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