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WINNING YOUNG COMPOSERS ANNOUNCED

Milwaukee, WI – Three Wisconsin teen-agers have “taken the cake” in the MacDowell Club of Milwaukee’s YOUNG COMPOSER COMPETITION! As part of its centennial celebration, the MacDowell Club of Milwaukee mounted a competition this past fall for Wisconsin composers 25 years of age and younger. The requirements were a 4-6 minute four-part (S.A.T.B.) Choral Composition accompanied by a single instrument. And the winners are:

Taking third place (\$750) with *The Call of the Land* for flute and four-part voices is 17-year old

Chelsea Komschlies of Appleton, a senior at Fox Valley Lutheran High School;

Mequon’s 19 year-old **Emily Cooley**, a freshman at Yale University, captured the second place (\$1000)

with her *Lullaby* for chorus and cello; and

Minh-Tam Trinh, a 15-year old junior at Whitefish Bay High School, won the grand prize of \$1500 with his entry entitled *Gitánjali* for choir and piano.

By offering this incentive for young musicians, the MacDowell Club of Milwaukee honors its namesake, Edward A. MacDowell (1860-1908), the first American composer to achieve international recognition; follows its purpose by encouraging young composers; and helps to ensure the future of classical music in the community.

In keeping with its mission (*stated in full below*), the MacDowell Club strives “to provide incentive for progressive work for both professional and amateur musicians” and “to acquaint the public with...the excellence of local musicians.” Thus the Club presents its performing members in a series of concerts throughout the concert season, holds periodic auditions for performing members, conducts biennial scholarship competitions and, as an important component of its 100th Anniversary, mounted its Young Composers Competition. Associate (non-performing) memberships are available at any time.

MINH-TAM TRINH (*photo attached*) began studying piano in earnest nine years ago with Carol Hauer and is now a student of Curtis Stotlar at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and where he also takes music theory courses with John Babbit. He studies composition with Sr. Marion Verhaalen at her Milwaukee studio.

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Trinh has been presented in recital by the *Milwaukee Music Teachers Association* Youth Concert Series, is the recipient of several awards from the annual *Wisconsin School Music Association* Solo & Ensemble Festivals, earned trophies from *National Federation of Music Clubs* Junior Festivals, and took top prizes in the most recent *National Federation of Music Clubs* Junior Composer Contests.

EMILY COOLEY (*photo attached*) is a graduate of the University School of Milwaukee. She studied piano with Constance Kenney and Susan Sonneborn, composition and theory with Carol Klose, and with John Boyle at the Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan. She was a member of the Milwaukee Children's Choir and Youth Chorale for 11 years.

During high school, Cooley composed works for school theater productions and the concert band. She has received awards from the *Wisconsin Alliance of Composers*, the *Wisconsin School Music Association*, and the *Music Teacher's National Association*. In 2007, her choral composition, "Evening Prayer", was premiered by the *Vancouver Chamber Choir*, and she was named an emerging composer by the *New York Art Ensemble*. In 2008, her "Easing the Spring" was performed at the *Music Educators National Conference*, and she was the winner of the *National Federation of Music Clubs* composition competition in the senior division.

CHELSEA KOMSCHLIES (*photo attached*) has been involved in many music groups, including her high school's band and jazz choir as well as the *Fox Cities Youth Orchestra*, *Lawrence Academy Girl Choir*, *Wisconsin School Music Association* State Honors Band, *National Band Association* State Honors Band, and the *Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin*.

Komschlies discovered her love of arranging and composing at age 15 when she decided to create and write music for an Irish folk ensemble at school. Last year's arrangement was entered in Solo/Ensemble and the group received a first rating at state. Writing and arranging music is her favorite activity and, this past year, she was involved in the Composition Project through the *Green Bay Symphony*, for which she composed her first choral work. She hopes to major in Music Therapy/Music Education at Wartburg College next year.

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(See attached photos)