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DATED: 3 SEPTEMBER 2015

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MUSIC CLUB PRESENTS TWO WORLD PREMIERES

What: Free Concert

When: Woman's Club of Wisconsin, 813 E Kilbourn Avenue, Milwaukee

When: 7 o'clock Friday evening, 16 October 2015

Milwaukee, WI – The MacDowell Club of Milwaukee is pleased to present the winning entries of its 2014 YOUNG COMPOSER COMPETITION in a free concert at 7 P.M., Friday, the 16th of October, at the Woman's Club of Wisconsin grand ballroom, 813 East Kilbourn Avenue, Milwaukee. All entries were for a 6 to 8-minute song cycle for solo voice with accompaniment, written by Wisconsin natives, or student composers enrolled in Wisconsin educational establishments, 25 years of age or younger.

First prize, of \$1,000, was won by Emily Cooley, a native of Mequon and alumna of Yale University, New Haven, CT, currently doing advanced studies at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, PA. The world premiere of her song cycle, *A Circle Transparent Above Us*, will be performed by Club members soprano Amelia Spierer (Shorewood) and pianist Valerie Pogue (Milwaukee).

The \$750 Second prize went to Oshkosh composer, Nicolás Gutiérrez, a recent graduate of UW-Oshkosh, now pursuing his Masters degree in Music Composition at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. Written for baritone and piano, Timothy Rebers (Wauwatosa) and Jonathan Bostrom (Waukesha) will debut his song cycle, *The Universal*. We are especially pleased that both of the winning composers will be present!

Other highlights of the program will be our newest discoveries, the MacDowell Club's 2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS, also all 25 or younger: Canadian guitarist Nathan Bredeson is a graduate of the University of Ottawa, currently studying for his Masters of Music with classical guitar virtuoso Rene Izquierdo at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Cellist Pin-hui Tsai, a native of Taiwan, is in the U.S. studying for his Bachelor's degree with Prof. Stefan Kartman at UW-Milwaukee. And award-winning classical guitarist Samuel Hines hails from Southern California where he earned his Bachelors in Music Performance under Michael Nigro at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, CA, and is continuing his studies at UWM with Rene Izquierdo. These artists received \$1000, \$750, and \$500, respectively.

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Honorable Mentions of \$250 were awarded to violin pedagogue Emily Alyssa Tyler of Hales Corners, an alumna of the Baptist College of Ministry in Menomonee Falls, WI, and student of local instructors Elizabeth Zemple, Suzanne Ignaszak and Jamie Hofman,; and Milwaukee pianist/teacher Jedidiah Wardecke earned his Bachelors and Masters of Music degrees at Cardinal Stritch University in Fox Point, WI, studying with concert pianist Dr. Eun Joo Kwak.

In addition to these debut performances and monetary awards, each of these young musicians was bestowed a Performing Membership in the MacDowell Club for the coming year. For additional program details, contact the Concert Chair Suzanne Pajunen (Wauwatosa): 414-771.5832.

Following their Auditions last spring, MacDowell Club President Carla Coonan (Bayside) shared these sentiments with the Board of Directors:

“I feel so proud to be a part of this remarkable organization and to have had the privilege of hearing these gifted young performers today. It will be an honor to present them to our membership – indeed all of Milwaukee’s music-loving public – at the opening concert of our 2015-2016 season!”

The MacDowell Club of Milwaukee proudly bears the name of Edward A. MacDowell (1860-1908), the first American composer to gain international recognition. It presents its members in an annual series of public programs at various venues throughout the Greater Milwaukee Community during the regular concert season. Bringing together many of the community’s excellent musicians is a major component of this organization and sharing their gifts with the public is at its core. In addition, for Club members and their guests, occasional house concerts are held in private homes and, each fall, an outstanding guest from the musical community is invited to give a talk at the Annual Meeting of the membership.

Over the decades, the Club boasted one of the first all-women orchestras; created a women’s chorus; awarded countless scholarships for aspiring young artists; presented world premieres by local and national composers; commissioned works (co-incidentally by MacDowell Colony Fellows) to commemorate its milestone anniversaries, and - most recently - mounted competitions for gifted young composers.

Currently celebrating its 106th year, the mission of the MacDowell Club of Milwaukee is to further musical interests in the community, provide performing opportunities for professional and amateur musicians, and acquaint the general public with the number and excellence of local artists.

The MacDowell Club supports and encourages musical accomplishment and is open to all. For information about future concerts, its 2016 Young Composer Competition, the Club’s biennial Scholarships, the next auditions for Performing Membership, or on joining as a Sustaining or Contributing Associate, contact Sheri Masiakowski (Greendale), MacDowell Club Treasurer, (414-403-1046) and/or explore our website: macdowellclubmilwaukee.org.