

BIRCH CREEK

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Contact: John Schoneman
john@birchcreek.org
PO Box 230
3821 County E
Egg Harbor, WI 54209
920-868-3763

For Immediate Release

Birch Creek Accepts Record-Breaking Number of Wisconsin Students

Egg Harbor, WI– Birch Creek Music Performance Center is thrilled to host a record-breaking number of Wisconsin students this summer. The Birch Creek Academy will also welcome three Door County students who will attend its Percussion, Symphony, and Jazz II sessions.

As of 6/1/16, Birch Creek has accepted 51 Wisconsin students into its summer programs, making up 29% of its current enrollment. This number is up from 33 in 2015, and is the most Wisconsin students accepted to the Academy since 1998 when data was systematically recorded. This year's success of Wisconsin recruiting is due in large part to substantial and generous donations given from the Dwight & Linda Davis Foundation for recruitment, and from an anonymous family foundation for WI student scholarships.

“It is important for Birch Creek to have solid representation from Wisconsin student musicians not only for the visibility and recognition of the great music programs across our state, but for WI students to have this incredible experience closer to home,” commented Mona Christensen, Birch Creek's Executive Director. “Through the generous gifts of the Dwight & Linda Davis Foundation, and others, we were able to boost our Wisconsin recruiting efforts. At the same time, because of a generous lead gift from an anonymous family foundation, we were able to award need and talent based scholarships specifically for Wisconsin students. This duo-focused strategy and support from our donors will bring some of Wisconsin's finest high school musicians to Birch Creek this summer.”

The influx of Wisconsin applicants includes three students from local Door County

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communities. Maddy Parenteau, trumpeter, is from Sturgeon Bay, and this will be her second year with Birch Creek, attending the Jazz II session. She is a member of the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Emily Kolpein, percussionist, from Brussels, WI will also join Birch Creek in its Percussion session. This will be Emily's first year as a student at Birch Creek.

Jonathan Bass, pianist, from Washington Island will attend the Symphony and Jazz II sessions. This will be Jonathan's third year attending the Symphony session, and his second year attending the Jazz II session. Jonathan also returned to Birch Creek in October to perform alongside Symphony Faculty Pianist, Jodie Desalvo, at Birch Creek's Fall Fundraiser, "Bach to Broadway."

Birch Creek Music Performance Center in Egg Harbor, WI, is a residential summer music academy for advanced young musicians. With a performance emphasis, students are taught by nationally known performers and educators during the day, and perform alongside them in concerts at night. Four sessions focus on Percussion & Steel Band, Symphony, and Big Band Jazz. 2016 concert and session dates are posted at www.birchcreek.org/tickets.

2016 Concert Schedule

Percussion and Steel Band: June 23-25, 29-July 2

Symphony: July 4, 7-9, 13-16

Big Band Jazz (Two Sessions): July 20-23, 27-30 | August 3-6, 10-13

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