

Today's Date: May 12, 2015

Birch Creek Music Performance Center, Inc.

Contact: John Schoneman

john@birchcreek.org

PO Box 230

3821 County E

Egg Harbor, WI 54209

Phone: (920) 868-3763

For Immediate Release

BIRCH CREEK RECEIVES LES PAUL FOUNDATION GRANT

Gift will support 2015 jazz guitar instruction at the Egg Harbor music school

Egg Harbor, WI – Birch Creek Music Performance Center's jazz guitar instruction is built on mentorship and live performance, and this successful educational model was recognized for the third consecutive year with a grant from the Les Paul Foundation.

Rick Haydon, professor of music at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, leads guitar instruction at Birch Creek. Haydon has studied and performed with guitar masters including Johnny Smith, Howard Roberts and Bucky Pizzarelli. Pizzarelli introduced Haydon to Les Paul at a concert in New York City, and Haydon remembers Paul defining the "new generation of guitar musician" who would become involved in the sound and technology of music. "I am that musician," Haydon said. He designed, built and manages the SIUE recording studio and is head of the guitar program there. At Birch Creek, Haydon and fellow guitar faculty member, Larry Brown, introduce students to many of Les Paul's performing and recording innovations.

Executive Director of the Les Paul Foundation, Michael Braunstein, announced spring 2015 grant awards in April. Those organizations that receive Les Paul Foundation grants encourage young people to pursue their curiosity and innovation about music, sound and engineering. Recent grants include funding to multiple music education programs and to museums that tell the Les Paul story. Birch Creek is honored to be among the organizations awarded a Les Paul Foundation grant.

The Les Paul Foundation begins the official "100th Birthday of Les Paul," a year long celebration to launch the famous inventor and musician's 100th birthday on June 9th, 2015. The celebration, which will last through May of 2016, will feature concerts, tours and events. For more information about the Les Paul Foundation and the 100th birthday celebration, visit www.lespaulfoundation.org

Closer to home, another anniversary commences at Birch Creek on June 18, when the organization launches its 40th anniversary year. The Percussion & Steel Band session's Opening Night Concert "Celebrating Four Decades of Hits in the Barn," is an apt beginning to eight weeks of academic sessions and accompanying public concerts in jazz, percussion & steel band, and symphony. Visit the campus, attend a concert and become a part of Birch Creek's history of "Growing Musicians for Forty Years."

Birch Creek Music Performance Center is a summer music performance academy in Egg Harbor, WI, 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. Student applications are welcome.

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