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Birch Creek Music Performance Center, Inc.

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For Immediate Release

Birch Creek Names Mona Christensen as New Executive Director

Egg Harbor, WI – April 17, 2015 – The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Mona Christensen as the new Executive Director of Birch Creek Music Performance Center, effective May 18, 2015.

"We are delighted to welcome Mona as our new Executive Director," said Board President, Barbara Flint. "She has proven leadership skills as a director of arts and enrichment programs for children and adults, as well as a stellar track record in developing creative people in a collaborative team environment. A musician with a passion for music education, she has long admired Birch Creek's mission, and as a resident of Jacksonport, she is already actively involved in many aspects of Door County community life."

Christensen joins Birch Creek from the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay (UWGB), where she has served as Director of Camps and Conferences, Marketing and Technology Supervisor, and Learning in Retirement Advisor. In these positions, Christensen was responsible for the development and delivery of an array of camps for youths in grades 6-12 and a variety of adult programs including *Grandparents' University*, *Spanish in the Professions*, and *Arts Enrichment for Adults*. Additionally, she served as Outreach Specialist, Director of Youth Opportunities, and Coordinator with *Music for Everybody*. In these positions, Christensen managed a staff of more than 100 to implement all aspects of the UWGB summer youth camps and also coordinated an Extension program for private lessons that enlisted more than 40 teachers and 200 students.

Between stints at UWGB, Christensen served for five years as Ministries Director for Bayside Christian Fellowship, a church with three thousand attendees, where she had

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fiscal and administrative responsibility for several ministries, including Women's Ministries, Fine Arts and Harvest Festivals, and Discipleship/Mentoring programs. She also co-developed a fund-raising program called "Bayside Growth Ministries" for non-profit organizations.

Christensen holds a Master of Science Degree in Administrative Science and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music with a minor in Business Administration, both from the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay. She serves on the Founders Board of Directors of UWGB, the *After Thoughts* Committee for UWGB Advancement, and as Student Organization Advisor for UWGB CRU. She has also served as a grant reviewer for the Wisconsin Arts Board and in Leadership Green Bay.

"I am so excited to be a part of the Birch Creek family and its traditions," said Christensen. "Its breadth of music training and programming reaches all over the country and beyond. I look forward to an exciting future with the Birch Creek organization, including its board, students, faculty, volunteers, donors and concert goers."

Christensen lives in Jacksonport with her husband, David. She has two children, Paul and Elise, who also live in the Green Bay area. She is active in the Door of Life Church in Sister Bay, where she plays flute in the Worship Band, and is a member of Sounds of Silver Community flute choir in Green Bay. For many years, she has participated in foreign missions to Myanmar and India through Going Global, Inc. She is also a member and volunteer baker for the Jacksonport Women's Club.

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, June 18-27, Symphony, July 2-11, and Big Band Jazz, July 15- August 8. Student applications are welcome.

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