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For Immediate Release

Wisconsin Arts Board Grant | Birch Creek

Egg Harbor, WI -- Birch Creek Music Performance Center is pleased to announce that it has received a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board's Creation and Presentation program. Grant funds will provide operational and program support for the outstanding music education programs and public concerts that will launch Birch Creek's 42nd season in 2017.

This is the fourteenth consecutive year that Birch Creek has received an Arts Board grant, and the unique music academy continues to be ranked among the highest applicants in the Arts Board's statewide grant process as determined by a panel of experts in the field. The grant acknowledges Birch Creek as an organization that offers high quality music education programming, thereby having significant local, regional, and statewide impact on the cultural life of Wisconsin. During this 14-year granting period, funds from the Arts Board supported programming at Birch Creek that enrolled 2,619 young musicians who received mentoring and instruction by 1,200 professional faculty members and teaching assistants, and provided public concerts for audiences of approximately 145,000. In addition, Birch Creek's mission includes free outreach clinics held annually for Door County public school music students through "Artists in the Schools" program.

"Arts Board grants have recognized Birch Creek's excellence in music education since 2000, and in every consecutive year since 2003," noted executive director Mona Christensen.

"The Arts Board is a state agency that nurtures creativity, cultivates expression, and

supports the arts in education. To be recognized by the State of Wisconsin for the value we provide to our community is an honor.”

The summer music academy and concert venue has been a Wisconsin institution since 1975, educating hundreds of promising young musicians each summer and providing concerts for tourists and residents alike. Through job creation, locally purchased services, and family-purchased meals and lodging, Birch Creek has had an economic impact on the Door County community of more than \$4 million over the past eight years.

Birch Creek matches Arts Board funds with funds raised through tuition, ticket sales, individual and foundation gifts, and grants.

Birch Creek Music Performance Center is a residential summer music 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. 2017 concert and session dates are posted at www.birchcreek.org.

2017 Concert Schedule

Percussion and Steel Band: June 22-24, 28-July 1

Symphony: July 4, 6-8, 12-15

Big Band Jazz (Two Sessions): July 19-22, 26-29 | August 2-5, 9-12

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