



Milwaukee
Children's Choir
Building Noteworthy Character

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

Milwaukee Children's Choir Begins Search for new Artistic Director

*Founder Emily Crocker
will continue as Artistic Advisor*

Sept. 26, 2008. Milwaukee Children's Choir will begin a nationwide search for a new, full-time artistic director to continue the growth of this pre-eminent organization for musical instruction and performance in southeastern Wisconsin. Emily Crocker, founder and current artistic director, will remain in her role through the end of the 2008-2009 season, when the new artistic director is expected to take the helm. Ms. Crocker will continue as Artistic Advisor for the Choir.

"Our need for a full-time artistic director reflects a high demand for choral music instruction and performance, and is a natural result of organizational growth," states Deborah Patel, executive director of Milwaukee Children's Choir. "And while Emily's day-to-day presence will be missed, her legacy as founder will always be with us."

Ms. Crocker founded the Milwaukee Children's Choir in 1994 with 35 singers and has been its artistic director since then. She is also the Vice President of Choral Music at Milwaukee's Hal Leonard Corporation, the world's largest print music publisher.

Today, Milwaukee Children's Choir has more than 350 singers in five choirs. Its members had more than 50 performances last season. The organization has 27 staff members and hundreds of volunteers.

"I have been privileged to work with a generation of young Milwaukee musicians who have enriched our community with their voices, their musicianship and their commitment to our organization. I am grateful for the friendships I have gained here, especially from the artistic professionals and dedicated parents who have worked side by side with me over the years," said Ms. Crocker.

Milwaukee Children's Choir brings extraordinary performance experiences to its choir members. Selected choir members are currently performing with The Skylight in *La Boheme*. Recent guest appearances have included the nationally touring *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, the Milwaukee Ballet's *The Nutcracker* and *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Britten's *War Requiem* and *Carmina Burana* with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, annual performances with Present Music, and others.

"Milwaukee Children's Choir is a child of Emily's vision and perseverance," said Chris Burgener, president of the board for Milwaukee Children's Choir. "The new artistic director will continue fulfilling her vision of seeing Milwaukee's youth grow in the fullest sense of the word."

Milwaukee Children's Choir's mission is to provide exceptional choral music instruction and performance experiences that foster creativity, personal expression and social growth. For more information about Milwaukee Children's Choir, visit www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org.

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