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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

Milwaukee Children's Choir Fills Artistic Staff Positions

A new artistic era is marked at its 15th anniversary

MILWAUKEE, Wis., July 20 — Milwaukee Children's Choir is pleased to announce the appointment of several new artistic staff members. "These individuals are some of the most talented music educators and performers in the Milwaukee area," said Milwaukee Children's Choir Artistic Director Carol Storck. "They are individuals not only known for their musicianship and passion for quality music education, but also for their leadership in the field of music."

The five new hires (in alphabetical order) are:

Jason Clark, an active tenor soloist and Founder and Director of the Shorewood Choral Arts Society, and Shorewood School's Director of Choral Activities, whose high school choirs have been featured with the Milwaukee Choristers, the Bel Canto, as part of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's inaugural honors choir festival, and on stage at Carnegie Hall under the direction of renowned composer John Rutter.

Kristin Dillahunt, a Grafton elementary general and choral music educator who co-produced *Favorite Singing Games*, a DVD teaching teachers how to reach young children with song, who sits on several local and district wide committees relating to curriculum, technology, and staff development, and who is recent president of the Association of Wisconsin Area Kodály Educators.

Jenny Gettel, member of the Voice Faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, a board member of the Milwaukee Music Teachers Association, and an active soloist with performing arts organizations including the Bach Babes, Present Music, the Racine Symphony Orchestra, and The Skylight, where The Wall Street Journal praised her for her "lovely lyrical singing."

Annemarie Travia, a Kenosha County K-5 general music teacher (Salem Grade School) who is past president of the Association of Wisconsin Area Kodály Educators, is an adjudicator for the Wisconsin School Music Association district and state solo and ensemble festivals, and teaches early childhood music classes as part of Silver Lake College's *Music for Tots* program.

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Theresa Witt, who is returning to Milwaukee Children's Choir after a six year hiatus, and who, while with the organization in the past, helped build its first through third grade teaching program, who is certified in both Kodály and Orff-Schulwerk methodologies, and who has served on the boards of state, regional and national Kodály organizations and has worked as presenter and choral clinician.

With these hires Milwaukee Children's Choir completes an artistic leadership transition that began almost a year ago when Founder and Artistic Director Emily Holt Crocker told MCC's Board of Directors she intended to end her term as artistic director as of June 30, 2009. Board Chair Christine Burgener states: "When we hired Ms. Storck last month, we chose an Artistic Director who was immediately able to bring incredible teaching artists onto our team. That team is filled with individuals who bring unique talents to share, yet have similar teaching philosophies, and who are inspired by one another and what they as a team will bring to MCC."

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.