

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greater Milwaukee Baroque Festival Recognizes Young Musicians

Milwaukee, Wis. – The Greater Milwaukee Baroque Festival, held on October 13 on the campus of Wisconsin Lutheran College, recognized 30 talented young musicians from throughout southeastern Wisconsin. The festival, in its fifth year, was presented for the first time by Musical Offering Ltd., Milwaukee's early music producer and sponsor of Ensemble Musical Offering (EMO), Milwaukee's "Midwest Bande for Early Music." With divisions for strings (violin, viola, cello and bass) and piano, approximately 60 festival entrants from grades K-12 competed for trophies and scholarships.

Musical Offering Ltd. and festival sponsors U.S. Bank/Private Client Reserve, Bryan Gore & Associates, and Pepperdine University/Waves of Service extend sincere congratulations to the following competitors:

Scholarship Winners *(listed first to third place in each division)* —

Piano, Grades 9–12: Ivana Bajic of Oconomowoc, Austin Cao of Mequon and Natalie Wen of Hartland

Piano, Grades 6–8: Mara Bajic of Oconomowoc, Emily Chu of Sussex and Charlotte Trumble of Mequon

Piano, Grades K–5: Geoffrey Xue of Pewaukee, Charis Qi of Wauwatosa and Elena Deslongchamps of Whitefish Bay

Strings, Grades 9–12: Jubilee Hou of Fox Point, Allen Hung of Glendale and Andy Hung of Glendale

Strings, Grades 6–8: Eric Chen of Brookfield, Ian Wasserman of Whitefish Bay and Evan Huang of Brookfield

Strings, Grades K–5: Lorenzo Schoepf of Milwaukee, Emma Kuehn of Hartland and Ellie Lin of Pewaukee

Honorable Mention --

Piano, Grades 9–12: Michelle Tong of Glendale, Andy Hung of Glendale and Christopher Chu of Sussex

Piano, Grades 6–8: Bonnie Jin of Brookfield, Annabelle Lee of Pewaukee, and Janie Xue of Pewaukee

Piano, Grades K–5: Alex Ge of Brookfield, Cynthia Cao of Milwaukee and Christopher Cook of Pewaukee

Strings, Grades K–5: Alex Ge of Brookfield, Emily Ratsavong of Pewaukee and Naomi Ross of West Allis

Each of the first place winners has been invited to perform during ensuing Ensemble Musical Offering concerts during the 2012-2013 season. Xue, Hou and Schoepf delighted the audience at the October 20 concert, and the remaining honorees will be scheduled for the upcoming December 8 and March 9 performances. All of EMO's regular season concerts are held at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, 818 E. Juneau Avenue, Milwaukee.

Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. One parent offered that her "daughter left [the festival] so excited and so thankful to play violin. She said it was one of the most fun days of her life!" EMO Artistic Director Joan Parsley explains, "Musical Offering feels so strongly that we have a responsibility to the community, particularly in an era of on-going cuts to funding for music education in the public schools. We want to do our part to provide exposure to our western European musical heritage, encourage students who have an interest in playing, create opportunities to develop a well-rounded musical education, and finally, lay the foundation for future performers and audiences of early music." EMO expects to announce the date of the 2013 festival in late winter.

The Greater Milwaukee Baroque Festival was created by the Hartland-based Lake Country Music Club in 2008 as a vehicle to elevate the profile of music of the baroque era, and to give area music teachers an event early in their instructional year towards which their students could practice. Musical Offering was encouraged to take over the event earlier this year, as the festival represented a natural fit with the organization's mission statement. To be added to the mailing list for information about the 2013 festival, music teachers are asked to send an e-mail to info@milwaukeebaroquefestival.org.



2012 Greater Milwaukee Baroque Festival honorees

About Ensemble Musical Offering

Ensemble Musical Offering (EMO), Milwaukee's Midwest Bande for Early Music, is dedicated to fostering appreciation for early music, circa 1518-1850, through professional performance on original instruments, educational activities and community outreach. With special emphasis on the world of Johann Sebastian Bach, the ensemble is one of just 130 professional early music producers in the United States. EMO was officially formed in 1998 and are Artists-in-Residence at Milwaukee's Cathedral Church of All Saints, the cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee. The organization typically performs several concerts each season, and undertakes a variety of music education/outreach projects. As of 2012, it is the presenter of the Greater Milwaukee Baroque Festival; EMO has offered the Summer Baroque Institute, *It Takes Guts To Go Baroque* since 2011. Website:

<http://www.ensemblemusicaloffering.org>

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