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WISCONSIN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC ANNOUNCES NEW PRESIDENT/CEO

The Wisconsin Conservatory of Music is very pleased to announce the appointment of Karen Deschere to the position of President and CEO of the organization. The appointment, ratified by the Board of Trustees at a meeting on June 17, 2004, completes a nation-wide search process which began last October, when Joyce Altman, who had led the Conservatory for 10 years, retired from the post. Ms. Deschere will be leaving the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, where she has been serving as Executive Director of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and Executive Director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus. She has been with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association since 1998.

JoAnne Nissen, chairman of the Board of Trustees, speaking on behalf of the entire board, said "Karen's experience in the performing arts, as well as her background in music education, made her an exceptional choice for this job. We are very excited to have Karen joining the school to carry on and expand our tradition of providing the finest musical education experience in the Milwaukee area. She is a proven, energetic leader and a delightful person. We all look forward to working with her."

Prior to joining the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, Deschere had been Managing Director of Education with the NARAS Foundation, a California based non-profit arm of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, which strove to enhance and strengthen music education in the nation's schools.

Ms. Deschere stated that she is "thrilled to be taking the helm at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and to be working for an organization with such a strong tradition of excellence in music education. I am excited by the opportunities that exist for the WCM to be involved in the community and look forward to continuing to strengthen the access, quality and diversity of its programming."

Karen will be joining the Conservatory effective July 19th. Until then, Pete Petrie and Mary Tenwinkel, former board members, will continue to serve as Interim Co-Presidents, a title they have shared since January. They will rejoin the board as soon as Karen in place as President.

Electronic images available. Please contact Sarah Wright at 414-267-5760 ext. 106 or sarahwright@wcmusic.org <mailto:sarahwright@wcmusic.org>