FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WSU’S CONCERT CHORALE AND WOMEN’S GLEE CLUB PRESENT FIRST CONCERT WITH NEW CONDUCTOR

The Wichita State University Concert Chorale and Women’s Glee Club will present their first solo concert of the year on Thursday, October 25, 2012. The concert marks the debut of WSU’s new choral director, Michael Hanawalt.

Dr. Hanawalt, the newly-appointed Assistant Professor of Choral Music, comes to WSU after a significant career as a professional singer and arts administrator. A graduate of St. Olaf College, a school known for its rich choral tradition, Hanawalt co-founded the male vocal ensemble Cantus, an organization that has grown into one of the premiere choral ensembles in the world. Throughout his tenure with Cantus, Dr. Hanawalt performed over 500 concerts throughout North America and Europe and recorded eleven CDs. In addition, he also served as Cantus’ Executive Director, overseeing organizational growth from a $150,000 annual budget to one of over $750,000.

In 2009, Dr. Hanawalt returned to academia, receiving a M.M. in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University and a Ph.D in Choral Music Education from Florida State University. He is excited to be working with the faculty and students at Wichita State. Hanawalt notes, “There is something incredibly special about amateur singers – their desire to learn and be inspired is an incredible lesson for all of us. I consider it a true honor to be able to work with that kind of student every day.”

For the concert, Women’s Glee Club’s program contains an eclectic mix of selections where different cultures and time periods intermingle. Classics such as Felix Mendelssohn’s "Lift Thine Eyes" from Elijah and Antonio Vivaldi’s "Laudamus Te" from Gloria mix with contemporary American composer Jocelyn Hagen’s I Started Out Singing. Music from folk traditions is explored through Stephen Hatfield’s unique collection of Inuit chants and Lead Belly’s Bring Me Little Water, Sylvie, in an arrangement by Moira Smiley.

Concert Chorale’s program, "The Ecstasy and the Agony" takes the listener on a journey into and out of grief. Alice Parker’s famous arrangement of the old American hymn tune, Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal invites each of us to join the eternal song. Johannes Brahms’ iconic O Schöne Nacht and Morten Lauridsen’s evocative Sure On This Shining Night explore the beauty of nature from opposite states of mind, while Thomas Tomkin’s stunning When David Heard wallows in the depths of grief. Out the agony, Estonian composer Arvo Pärt’s Bogoróditse Djévo offers up a hopeful prayer. Finally, light transcends darkness through Dolly Parton’s Light of a Clear Blue Morning and Keith McCuthen’s arrangement of Amazing Grace.
EVENT INFORMATION

Wichita State University’s Concert Chorale and Women’s Glee Club Fall Concert
Thursday, October 25, 2012, 7:30pm
Wiedemann Concert Hall
Wichita State University
Wichita, KS
Adults $7, Students $3