



VOICES OF HOPE VOIX D'ESPOIR

WORLD AIDS DAY DEC 1, 2009

A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR CASEY HOUSE



CASEY HOUSE

MEDIA RELEASE:

**VOICES OF HOPE / VOIX D'ESPOIR FOR WORLD AIDS DAY DECEMBER 1:
NATIONALLY COORDINATED CONCERTS IN TORONTO, MONTREAL & VANCOUVER**
Toronto's Casey House urges Canadian awareness and elimination of barriers to HIV care

November 12, 2009 – (Toronto, ON) On Tuesday, December 1 (International World AIDS Day), Casey House will once again host Voices of Hope, one of three nationally coordinated concerts calling for increased awareness of the ongoing crisis of HIV/AIDS around the world and here in Canada.

Echoing UNAIDS's call for universal access to HIV care and human rights, Toronto's concert will urge Canada and the world to "throw open the doors to care." One in 128 adult Torontonians are expected to be HIV positive by 2012, facing ongoing stigma and barriers to care due to their HIV status or because of poverty, isolation, addictions, mental illness, gender, sexual orientation or country of origin.

Once again hosted at the historic Metropolitan United Church, the concert will be heralded by one of Canada's largest carillons, with the bell tower lit up by an illuminated AIDS ribbon. Hosted by CBC's Tom Allen and Rev. John Joseph Mastandrea, the night will feature a premiere performance of a very special work by dazzling electric violinist Dr. Eugene Draw. Other performers on the bill include jazz crooner Julie Michaels, men's chorus Forte, the Toronto Jazz Chorus and the Muhtadi World Drummers. Quilts created in memory of the people who have passed away at Casey House since its 1988 founding will drape the church interior, as will a "living quilt" created by current residents. After the concert (ending at approximately 8:15 p.m.), attendees are encouraged to linger for a candlelight carillon concert and hot cider in the courtyard.

The concert is free, with donations to Casey House gratefully accepted.

WHAT: Casey House's "Voices of Hope" concert for World AIDS Day

WHEN: Tuesday, December 1, 2009

WHERE: Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen St. E (at Church)

TIME: Doors open 6:30 pm, with concert 7 pm - 8:15 pm, followed by outdoor candle ceremony

COST: FREE, with donations to Casey House gratefully accepted

About Voices of Hope / Voix D'Espoir for World AIDS Day:

Launched in 2008 by Toronto's **Casey House** in collaboration with **Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation** (Vancouver) and **La Maison du Parc** (Montréal), "Voices of Hope / Voix D'Espoir" is a trio of nationally collaborative concerts honouring lives lost to AIDS, and calling for increased support and dignity for all people who experience ongoing stigma and marginalization because of their disease.

UNITED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS:

Casey House (Toronto): www.caseyhouse.com | La Maison du Parc (Montreal): www.maisonduparc.org | Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation (Vancouver): www.drpeter.org

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