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NEWS RELEASE

Dec. 5, 2008

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ALBUM RECORDED AT UM NOMINATED FOR GRAMMY AWARD

MISSOULA—

A recording of a live performance by children's storyteller and songwriter Bill Harley has received a Grammy nomination in the Best Spoken Word Album for Children category.

The album, "Yes to Running: Bill Harley Live," is a collaboration between Montana PBS and Montana Public Radio and was recorded in June 2006 at The University of Montana's University Theatre. Grammy nominations were announced Dec. 3 in Los Angeles.

Harley said he was delighted and honored by the nomination.

"I think 'Yes to Running' captures what I'm trying to do with the audience I want to reach. I'm especially happy because the nomination also honors Montana Public Television and Montana Public Radio," he said.

A TV version of "Yes to Running" was broadcast on Montana PBS and other public television stations around the U.S., including WGBH in Boston and WHYI in Philadelphia. MTPR broadcast a radio edition of the performance.

Dan Dauterive, operations director at KUFM-TV and Montana PBS, originated the idea of recording the popular performer and is credited on the album as co-producer with Harley. The Grammy nomination was a big surprise to Dauterive, who has received a Regional Emmy nomination for his work but never a Grammy nomination.

“It’s amazing how a simple idea can become a big deal,” he said. “I never imagined that this television project would blossom into other possibilities. It shows the benefits of collaboration between public radio and television.”

Michael Marsolek, MTPR program director, was the audio engineer for the recording. He said the radio and TV staffers each brought their best talents to the project and added that working with Harley was fun.

“Bill Harley is such a professional. He quickly adapted to all the performance alterations that recording required,” Marsolek said.

The Grammy Awards will be presented in Los Angeles on Feb. 8, 2009.

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