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NEWS RELEASE

Feb. 9, 2009

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ALBUM RECORDED AT UM TAKES GRAMMY AWARD

MISSOULA—

A recording of a live performance by children's storyteller and songwriter Bill Harley won a Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album for Children at the awards presentation in Los Angeles on Feb. 8.

The album, "Yes to Running: Bill Harley Live," includes stories and songs that paint a vibrant and hilarious picture of school, growing up and family life. It is a collaboration between Montana PBS and Montana Public Radio and was recorded in June 2007 at The University of Montana's University Theatre.

"Surprised, honored, humbled, happy – I feel all of these things," Harley said. "It was particularly pleasing to hear my two dear friends, Marcy Marxer and Cathy Fink, make the announcement. ... This was a very competitive category this year, and I know a lot of people had to vote for me. Thanks to them, and those who support me, and the couple generations of parents, kids and teachers who have put their trust in me."

Harley is heard regularly on MTPR's long-running children's program "The Pea Green Boat," which airs weekdays at 4 p.m. He will return to Montana for concerts in spring 2009.

Daniel Dauterive, operations director at KUFM-TV, originated the idea of recording the popular performer and co-produced the Grammy-winning CD with Harley. Michael

Marsolek, MTPR program director, coordinated the audio for Harley's two live concerts at UM and was the engineer for the recording.

"The success of the CD is an example of a total team effort, from Bill Harley, Montana Public Radio and Montana Public Television to the theater audience made up from the Missoula community," Dauterive said. "I wish I could give a big Grammy statue to the city of Missoula and the state of Montana."

A TV version of "Yes to Running" premiered on Montana PBS in 2008 and now can be seen on public television stations around the U.S.

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