

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 7, 2010 – 2 p.m.

Near North Voices in conjunction with Nipissing University, the WKP Kennedy Gallery and the North Bay Symphony proudly announces ***Voices – a multi-arts midwinter festival - January 24 – January 30, 2010.***

This multi-arts midwinter festival takes as its central theme the suppressed, forgotten and prophetic voices of women. The aim of the project is to bring important musical, visual and cinematic artworks to Nipissing University and the North Bay community, to facilitate the learning and collaborative performance of non-traditional musical works by amateur and professional performing artists in the Nipissing University and North Bay communities, to collaborate across artistic and academic disciplines and community agencies, to build bridges between Nipissing University and the community and to draw attention to women's issues and community organizations that serve women in the North Bay and global community.

**January 30 7:30 p.m. VOICES OF LIGHT/The Passion of Joan of Arc  
St. Andrew's United Church – \$20.00**

The culminating activity of the **VOICES** Festival is the Northern Ontario premiere of **VOICES OF LIGHT**, an extended musical work for choir, soloists, orchestra and digital sound. American composer Richard Einhorn has assembled actual texts from the trials of Joan of Arc, misogynist bible passages and medieval poetry, and the writings of a number of female medieval mystics in both Latin and Medieval French, and set them to music that is at once modern yet ancient sounding.

This marvelous work will be performed by Near North Voices – Nipissing University's Community Choir, whose membership includes students, staff, faculty from Nipissing University and Canadore College as well as members from the North Bay community. Near North Voices is pleased to be partnering with Thomas Jones and the North Bay Symphony for this performance. Vocal soloists and ensemble musicians from Sudbury, Renfrew, Burk's Falls, Toronto, Hamilton and Windsor will be featured. Carl Dreyer's 1928 silent film ***The Passion of Joan of Arc*** will be shown during the concert performance. Tickets are available at Gulliver's Quality Books & Toys, the WKP Kennedy Gallery and at the door on the night of the performance.

Other events throughout the week include the following:

**January 24 7:30 p.m. The Passion of Joan of Arc with live organ accompaniment  
St. Andrew's United Church – \$5.00**

This pre-screening of Carl Dreyer's silent film will be accompanied by Dr. Robert Hall, Associate Professor of Music at Laurentian University with improvised organ as would have been heard in many cinemas when the film was first shown.

**January 27 12:30 p.m.**

***Voices of Light – a discussion on the suppressed prophetic voices of women***

**Room A222G, Nipissing University – Free Admission**

Dr. Gillian McCann and Dr. Susan Srigley from the Department of Religions & Cultures at Nipissing University will speak at a Brown Bag Research Luncheon. Bring your own lunch.

**January 28 7:00 p.m. *Jane Doe***

**W.K.P. Kennedy Gallery — Free Admission/Donation**

Curated by Dermot Wilson, Director of the WKP Kennedy Gallery, Toronto artist Heather Gentleman will open an installation focusing on the historical and contemporary silencing of women.

**January 28 8:30 p.m. *White Water Gallery – Remembered Voices – Free Admission/Donation***

Work by four North Bay artists: Kim Kitchen, Lise Melhorn-Boe, Michelle Lariviere and Amy Wallace will be featured in an installation which will focus on the reclaiming of women's lost voices.

Net proceeds from ***Voices – A multi-arts midwinter Festival*** will be donated to three local agencies that support women in the North Bay community: True Self/Debwewendizwin Employment and Training, Nipissing Transition House – Women's Outreach and the Aids Committee of North Bay & Area. In addition, some proceeds will be forwarded to the Canadian-Uganda charity, Road to Care, which facilitates treatment for cervical cancer for women living in rural areas of Uganda. Booths will be set up at the Saturday night Voices of Light concert.

Please note that the film **The Passion of Joan of Arc** film contains strong imagery and may be not be suitable for all viewers. Parental discretion is advised.

For further information, please contact:

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Near North Voices

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