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WOODSTOCK CHIMES IN COMMEMORATION OF LIFE-AFFIRMING MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGH

Woodstock Percussion's Ethereal Tones Echo Through Composition Honoring Those Who Have Made Organ Transplant Surgery Life-Sustaining

SHOKAN, NY (June 20, 2005) – The ethereal tones of Woodstock Chimes sound in remembrance in *Transformations of Darkness and Light*, an orchestral composition dedicated to thousands of organ donors, patients, researchers and other caregivers who have made transplant surgery a life-sustaining reality.

The work, by composer Linda Tutas Haugen, was commissioned by the National Kidney Foundation in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of organ transplantation. “This has been an amazing project to be involved in,” said Tutas Haugen. “As life-affirming for me as for the millions of individuals whose lives have been enriched and sustained by transplant technology.”

The chimes that echo hauntingly through *Transformations* were custom-made by the Woodstock Percussion design team and Garry Kvistad, founder of Woodstock Percussion, and underwritten by the University of Minnesota Transplant Program. *Transformations* has four movements relating to the varied emotional experiences of those impacted by this lifesaving process. Each corresponds to a personal change in individual lives, as well as signaling the mainstreaming of transplant procedures over the last fifty years.

“My goal was to write a meaningful piece that would touch people’s hearts and raise awareness while addressing the need for organ donors,” adds Tutas Haugen. A resident of Burnsville, MN, Tutas Haugen has written for a variety of vocal and instrumental genres, including works for solo instruments, chamber and full orchestras, as well as solo voice and choral music.

Haugen finds a kindred spirit in the classically trained Kvistad, a member of Nexus, the acclaimed percussion quintet most recently nominated for a Juno, Canada’s prestigious counterpart to the Grammys in the Best Classical Album of the Year: Solo or Chamber Ensemble for *Drumtalker*.

The Woodstock Chimes that are featured in *Transformations* are made from extra thick-walled, specially suspended aluminum tubes, which allow them to resonate much longer than other chimes and create truly beautiful harmonies.

In the 1970s, Kvistad and his wife Diane began handcrafting chimes in the kitchen of their home in upstate New York and Woodstock Percussion was born. Woodstock Percussion now markets more than 100 different products in its Signature™ and Encore® Collections. In addition to its Environments line, Woodstock’s home and garden offerings include hand-tuned chimes, bells, gongs and musical fountains. The company’s Woodstock Music Collection® is a unique assortment of instruments from around the world that can be played and enjoyed without extensive training or practice. For more information, visit www.chimes.com, or call 800.422.4463 or write: Woodstock Percussion, Inc., 167 Dubois Road, Shokan, NY 12481-5124.

In addition to “Transformations of Darkness and Light,” Tutas Haugen’s recent compositions include a 25th Anniversary work for the San Francisco Girls’ Chorus based on *The Diary of Anne Frank* and a National Endowment for the Arts grant to compose a work for the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies. She holds a B.A. in Music from St. Olaf College, and an M.A. in Music Composition and Theory from the University of Minnesota.

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