

for immediate release
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Local Musician Receives Honorary Doctorate

Award celebrates global relationships of peace and respect

Media Release

Knox College at the University of Toronto will be conferring the degree of Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) on local musician Andrew Donaldson at their spring convocation on May 9, 2007. Donaldson is currently the pastoral musician and worship enlivener at Trafalgar Presbyterian Church in north Oakville.

This recognition is not just about Donaldson's musical talent, says local minister Rev. Kristine O'Brien. "This honorary degree signals a deep appreciation for Andrew, but also for the importance of global music amid the Christian church. Learning the songs of other nations, and sharing ours with the world, is a powerful way to build relationships of peace and respect."

In an era of struggle amid many branches of the Christian church over a variety of issues, seeking common ground is more important than ever. The world needs people who can communicate joyfully across different cultures, and according to church member and long-time friend David Kopulos, "Andrew's enthusiasm and expertise in very diverse musical styles make him an ideal ambassador."

A pioneer in global worship, Donaldson has published many educational articles and is a sought-after speaker and musician across Christian denominations in both Canada and the United States. He is also the creator of many Canadian musical and liturgical resources now used by churches around the world.

Although originally a percussionist, he completed his studies with the Royal Conservatory of Music in guitar and devotes much of his time to choral singing, composing and conducting (Orpheus Choir of Toronto, Toronto Chamber Choir). He also teaches popular styles of guitar, piano, songwriting and singing to private students and has taught the likes of Gene MacLellan (author of "Snowbird" and "Put Your Hand in the Hand"), and Alanis Morissette.

Andrew is the founder and artistic director of Hilariter, a combination of instrumental and vocal musicians who display an eclectic mixture of styles and genres from around the globe. The Whole Bright World Rejoices, their first CD release, captures Andrew's passion for global music. Their concert at Oakville's Town Hall in the fall of 2006 raised money for a youth resource centre in the villages of Masooli-Kitettika, Uganda.

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