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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Minnesota Musicians Create CD of Holiday Favorites For Charity**

**“HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: A MINNESOTA CHRISTMAS”  
To Be Released November 10 at Local Target Stores**

Minnesota’s finest musicians are joining forces to donate their musical talents for charity. Fifteen of the best Minnesota artists have come together to create a fresh new holiday CD to celebrate the season and to raise funds for the charities chosen by IBEW Holiday Lights.

“As local artists in the Twin Cities, we are always looking for new ways to share our talent,” said Phil Thompson, Music Director for IBEW Holiday Lights. “This new CD ‘Home for the Holidays: A Minnesota Christmas,’ has merged two elements of the holiday season: entertainment and giving. We know that the public will enjoy our fresh cuts on holiday music while giving back to those in need.”

“Home for the Holidays: A Minnesota Christmas” will include fifteen original mixes by top local artists. CDs will be sold at IBEW Holiday Lights events and Twin Cities’ Target Stores for \$9.99 in the new-music end-cap starting Tuesday, November 10. Pianist/composer Phil Thompson has produced this album with engineering and recording assistance by the world renown Winterland Studios.

Artists include: Tim & Kathy Mahoney, The Blenders, GB Leighton, Patty Peterson, Katie McMahon, Mick Sterling, John Trones, Mary Beth Carlson, Matthew Griswold, Ari Herstand, Roster McCabe, Cate Fierro, Wild Colonial Bhoys, Peter Mayer, and Phil Thompson.

**About IBEW Holiday Lights**

IBEW Holiday Lights was developed with the sole purpose of creating fun, affordable holiday events that raise funds to help meet basic life needs for children and adults in the Twin Cities metro area. 100 percent of the net proceeds of the CD and Holiday Lights events will be distributed to the following local charities in the Twin Cities:

***Second Harvest Heartland:*** The Upper Midwest's largest hunger-relief organization, working to end hunger through community partnerships. SHH distributes more than 48 million pounds of food annually to more than 980 member agencies and programs in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Each \$1 donated provides \$9 in grocery products to our neighbors in need.

***Union Gospel Mission:*** Working to meet the physical, emotional, spiritual, and educational needs of the economically disadvantaged men, women and children of the Twin Cities, through a variety of life-changing programs and services.

***Saint Paul Parks Conservancy:*** Securing resources to enhance parks and recreational opportunities throughout Saint Paul.

***UnderConstruction:*** Teaching youth what it takes to be an employable worker. Introducing high school students to the construction trades to explore the possibilities of a construction career.

The Holiday Lights project involves two unique holiday experiences in 2009: the Holiday Lights in the Park Light Tour at Phalen Park in St. Paul from November 24-December 31; and “Home for the Holidays: A Minnesota Christmas” Concert series, November 27 at the Mall of America and December 10 at the Pantages Theater. For more information please visit: [www.lightsinthepark.org](http://www.lightsinthepark.org)

Music partners include:

***International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW):*** The IBEW of the greater Twin Cities is proud to be the “Presenting Sponsor” for the second year. IBEW professional electricians live and work in our community. IBEW Holiday Lights in the Park provides an opportunity to continue their long-standing tradition of giving back. To learn more about the IBEW Power of Professionalism visit [www.ibewpros.org](http://www.ibewpros.org).

***King of Kings Lutheran Church, Woodbury:*** Partnering with IBEW to assemble a top-notch event, King of Kings shares leadership in event management, community outreach, and volunteer coordination. For more information, please visit [www.kingofkingswoodburymn.org](http://www.kingofkingswoodburymn.org)

***Winterland Studios:*** A recording studio known for having the best producers and engineers bar none. The caliber of artists they work with says it all—Prince, Elvis Costello, Sheryl Crow, Alanis Morissette, The Black Eyed Peas, Lenny Kravitz and Doughtry to name a few. Winterland Studios will co-produce and handle the mixing and mastering of the IBEW Holiday Lights in the Park CD.

**Editor’s note:** Interviews with Holiday Lights members, musical artists, sponsors or partners are available by contacting Monique Weiss at 651-307-8194 or [mweiss8194@gmail.com](mailto:mweiss8194@gmail.com)

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