



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2007

Contact:

Kate Bennet

Young Audiences of Minnesota

Phone: (651) 292-3399

Fax: (651) 292-3397

kateb@youngaudiencesofmn.org

Cook County Schools Contact: Gwen Carman, (218) 387-1273, gcarman@isd.k12.mn.us

Michael Monroe Contact: Deb Mueller, (218)387-2917, mm@michaelmonroe.info

Grand Marais Students Meet the Composer!

Young Audiences of Minnesota is pleased to present Michael Monroe at Cook County Schools from February 5-7th, 2007. Over the course of the week, Michael Monroe will introduce students to his unique style of music creation and performance. Three smaller groups of students will also have the opportunity to work closely with Michael to develop, create and perform their own song. The week culminates with a final free performance on Thursday evening at 6:30, in the "old gym" and is open to the public and especially all the students and families of the Cook County Schools. Donations for Sawtooth Mountain Elementary School playground improvements will graciously be accepted at the door.

From vinyl to digital, Michael Monroe is in his fourth decade of performing his original music. He lives and records at his North Shore solar powered MisTree Studio. Playing his unique mix of acoustic folk and reggae, he recycles his music on stage with his "live" layering/looping technique. His instrumental music is featured across the nation and PBS and Canada in the award winning documentary, "Chased By the Light," about Jim Brandenburg, National Geographic photographer and best selling author and his song "Soaring on Mended Wings" received a 2004 region Emmy for TV documentary. A 2001 McKnight Performing Musician Fellowship Finalist, his eighth "Simple Life" recording was nominated 2006 "Best Contemporary" Recording, from the prestigious JP Folks out of 25,000 albums in 81 categories. His first Summer Rain Vinyl was released on CD in Japan this past August. Monroe has participated in school programs since 1999 with Young Audiences of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Arts Board Performing Artist Roster. For more information:

www.michaelmonroe.info or www.myspace.com/michaelmonroemusic.

-more-

Michael Monroe is one of Young Audiences' teaching artists who present art and education programs to more than 200 schools each year. Young Audiences of Minnesota's mission is to inspire, empower, and unite children and communities through education, art, and culture. Young Audiences of Minnesota provides arts-in-education programs for students, families and communities in Minnesota and neighboring states, and is a chapter of Young Audiences, Inc., a nationally recognized arts-education provider. Young Audiences' staff and artists work with educators and community program coordinators to provide authentic arts learning experiences to meet the specific needs of their students.

This project is made possible through several funders. Meet the Composer, Inc. awarded Young Audiences of Minnesota a grant through their Creative Connections program. Creative Connections provides support for American composers to participate in public activities related to specific performances of their original music. By supporting the composer's interaction with audiences, performers, arts organizations, and local communities, Creative Connections aims to increase public awareness and enhance the creative artist's role in society.

To increase the impact of this grant project, additional funding was generously donated by Joyce Mueller of Minneapolis and by the Cook County Education Foundation.

###