

For Immediate Release

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EISEMANN CENTER PRESENTS VOX LUMIERE'S
"THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME" FOR ONE PERFORMANCE
ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2007 AT 8 PM

RICHARDSON, TX – Opening the 2007-2008 **Spotlight Series**, **VOX LUMIERE'S *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*** is a unique live performance that combines theatre, original music and silent film to create a completely new entertainment experience. Musicians, singers, dancers, and state-of-the-art multi-media weave together with classic silent film in a thrilling retelling of timeless movie masterpieces. **VOX LUMIERE** has performed in the US and Europe receiving awards, and excellent critical and audience reviews. **VOX LUMIERE** "translates" internationally because the music is universal, and the films' intertitles are easily recreated in any language.

From accomplished film, stage, and TV composer Kevin Saunders Hayes, the 1923 masterpiece and silent film starring Lon Chaney, ***The Hunchback of Notre Dame***, receives an impressive treatment—sound. The sound is not just an underscore, but a full length rock opera performed in a style that was made popular by the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* in the late 1970s. Hayes, with musical group **VOX LUMIERE** (Latin for "sound" and "light") includes eight vocalists/dancers, a four piece rock band and a modern set and lights to perform the rock opera in front of three movie screens projecting the movie. The amalgamation of such elements, have people describing the show as "*an intense experience not soon forgotten.*"

Hayes got the idea of adding scores and theatrical elements to silent films when he was searching through a bargain bin at a local video store, "I found five silent films for 99 cents each including *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* and ***The Hunchback of Notre Dame***. His first creation of this style was of the silent film *Metropolis*, which was met with critical acclaim at the *6th Avignon/New York Film Festival*. A year later ***Hunchback*** debuted at the *17th Avignon Festival* in Paris to a standing ovation.

Hayes' creation is definitely not a throwback to the days of classic silent films though—"I am interested in making musical theatre sound current. I love the big guitars of hard rock, the persuasive sounds of hip hop and techno and believe these elements can be blended to make the musical new again." Hayes believes in making his rock opera as much a part of popular culture as opera was in its early days. Although there are so many elements, Hayes has purposely kept the live action minimal when he feels the audience needs to focus on the screen. The show is sometimes described as an arena show in an intimate theatre—a concert without the sensory overload.

The performance on Saturday, October 27, 2007 at 8:00 pm is part of the 2007-2008 Season of **Eisemann Center Presents' Hill Performance Hall Spotlight Series**. Tickets range from \$25-\$55 and are available for purchase online at www.eisemanncenter.com or by calling the Eisemann Center Ticket Office at 972-744-4650 and group discounts are available for 10 or more persons.

The Charles W. Eisemann Center is located in the Galatyn Park Urban Center at 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson, Texas. The Eisemann Center is easily accessible from Highway 75 North taking the Galatyn Parkway/Renner Road exit going north and the Galatyn Parkway/Campbell Road exit going south or from the DART light rail station at Galatyn Park. Sponsors for the 2007-2008 Season include *The Dallas Morning News/WFAA-TV* and DART.

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