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**LISTENING LIBRARY SETS RECORD-BREAKING 635,000 AUDIOBOOK
FIRST PRINTING OF *HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE***

JIM DALE VOICES 117 ROWLING CHARACTERS

New York, NY (June 13, 2005)—Listening Library, an imprint of the Random House Audio Publishing Group, announced today that the first audiobook printing for the U.S. and Canada of J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* of 635,000 copies, making it the largest initial print in the history of the audiobook medium. The Potter audios will be released on July 16th simultaneously with the Scholastic hardcover editions.

The unabridged recording of the 652-page book is approximately 19 hours, filling 18 CDs and 12 cassettes. In fact, if one began the recording while on a non-stop drive south from New York City, it would not end before arrival in Memphis, Tennessee.

Jim Dale, narrator of all six Harry Potter audiobooks in the series for Listening Library, recently completed the recording of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. The Grammy Award-winning narrator voiced 117 distinct voices for the characters in the forthcoming installment.

Jim Dale's extraordinary performances have inspired Listening Library to create a "Guess the Voices" CD that will be given to bookstores and libraries for promotional events preceding the midnight official on-sale hour. In the CD, some two dozen characters from the first five Harry Potter novels are voiced and described by Mr. Dale. Listeners will be encouraged to listen to each clip and guess the character to win a prize.

The best-selling audiobooks in history, the five previous Harry Potter recordings have sold over four million copies to date in North America in all formats.

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