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HISTORY-MAKING NORTH AMERICAN SALES FOR HARRY POTTER AUDIOBOOK

(New York, June 24, 2003)—In its first three days on sale in the United States and Canada, the audiobook edition of **HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX** has become the fastest-selling title in the history of the recorded book medium, selling more than 135,000 copies, according to Random House, Inc., whose Listening Library children's audio imprint publishes the title in the U.S. and Canada.

The new Harry Potter audiobook sold more copies at retail in its first three days than all but a few recorded book editions sell in an entire year, according to David Naggar, President, Random House Audio & Diversified Publishing Group.

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX is available both in cassette format, with a suggested list price of \$45, and a compact disc set, which carries a \$75 retail price. The narrator of these unabridged editions, which run approximately twenty-seven hours, is Jim Dale.

A reprint of 75,000 copies of the CD edition is in production.

"Harry Potter has introduced an audience of hundreds of thousands of young and old to the enjoyment of children's literature in audio form. Jim Dale uniquely makes the author's characters come alive before our very ears," says Tim Ditlow, Publisher, Listening Library.

Jim Dale is the voice of all the characters in every one of the five Harry Potter novels, which are available in North America from Listening Library. Mr. Dale, who won a Grammy for **HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE** read portions of the new J.K. Rowling work to capacity crowds at several New York City retailers this past Saturday and Sunday. He was recently honored with the MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for his work in promoting British children's literature in the United States.

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