



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Children's opera to hold public fundraising gala Oct. 23**  
***Elijah's Kite* developed using bullying research**

TORONTO, October 12, 2007 — *Elijah's Kite*, an original children's opera about bullying will be performed at a public gala fundraiser on October 23, 2007 at 7 pm in CBC's Glenn Gould Studio. The opera was developed through collaboration between Tapestry, the production company, and researchers in the PREVNet (Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence) research network, which is jointly based at York University and Queen's University.

*Elijah's Kite*, composed by James Rolfe and written by Camyar Chai, is a participatory opera in which children join the professional cast as a singing chorus; one child plays the role of the kite. Opera's inherent emotional core makes it an opportune art form in which to engage children on tough issues in a meaningful and exciting way, and each performance features an extensive outreach component.

PREVNet researchers at York and Queen's provided bullying research to Tapestry new opera works while they developed the opera's libretto and score. They also conducted a workshop for the performers to prepare them to field questions during post-performance discussion sessions, and developed an accompanying guide for classroom teachers.

"PREVNet recognizes the power of the arts to inspire social-cultural change," says Debra Pepler, PREVNet's scientific co-director and a distinguished research professor in York's Department of Psychology. "We're committed to developing new and innovative ways of bringing the findings from bullying research to the people most affected by it: children, teachers and parents."

Funds raised through the gala will support PREVNet's ongoing research and the *Elijah's Kite* 2007-08 Ontario School Tour, sponsored by TD Canada Trust Music. For this performance, students from the Regent Park School of Music will perform as the chorus; tickets may also be donated to allow other children from the school to attend this special performance. CBC Radio will record the opera for use in an upcoming broadcast.

*What:* Public performance of *Elijah's Kite* with catered reception to follow

*When:* 7 pm, Tuesday, October 23, 2007

*Where:* Glenn Gould Studio, 250 Front St. West, Toronto, ON

*Tickets:* \$95 for adults and children, available on the PREVNet Web site [www.prevnet.ca](http://www.prevnet.ca)

**PREVNet: Research for a world without bullying**

PREVNet (Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence) is an umbrella network of 39 researchers from 21 Canadian universities across Canada, and 42 national community organizations that work with children and youth, industry and government. Its mission is to stop bullying in Canada while promoting safe and healthy relationships for all children and youth.



Launched in 2006 and jointly based at York University and Queen's University, this national Network Centre of Excellence is the first of its kind in Canada and provides an unprecedented opportunity for social innovation and social-cultural change. [www.prevnet.ca](http://www.prevnet.ca)

### **About Tapestry**

Founded in 1979 by Managing Artistic Director Wayne Strongman, Tapestry's mission is to engage the hearts and minds of artists and audience members in the creation, development and performance of new opera works. *Elijah's Kite* premiered in New York City in April 2006 as part of the Manhattan School of Opera's Outreach Triple Bill Concert for Families and Children. It made its Canadian premiere on October 26, 2006 at Rideau Hall in the presence of Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada. Over 10,000 Ontario school children in Grades 4 to 6 experienced the opera during its 2006-07 touring season. [www.tapestrynewopera.com](http://www.tapestrynewopera.com)

#### ***Elijah's Kite* Company**

Stage director: Michael Clipperton

Music director: Susan Suchard

Stage designer: Julia Tribe

Stage manager: Fiona Jones

Cast: Neema Bickersteth, Jessica Lloyd, James McLennan, Calvin Powell, Jennifer Rasor

Musicians: Lizzie Lavado, David Peters and Louis Simão

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