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For Immediate Release
March 16, 2006

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NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC RADIO AND THE MUSIC HALL PRESENT DAN BROWN Best-Selling Author of *Da Vinci Code* appears in Portsmouth on April 23

CONCORD— The latest entry in the Music Hall and New Hampshire Public Radio (NHPR) series “Writers on a New England Stage” promises to be a standing-room only program as *The Da Vinci Code* author Dan Brown takes to the stage to address “The Book, The Movie, The Controversy.” The program will take place at The Music Hall Sunday, April 23, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. and will be broadcast on NHPR the following morning.

The evening will include extensive remarks by the author on this timely topic-- the film of *The Da Vinci Code* is being released on May 19--followed by an interview with NHPR host Laura Knoy, who will take questions from the audience. Writer’s on a New England Stage houseband Dreadnaught will provide music throughout the evening.

“I’ve been in the business of creating performing arts events for twenty years and I’ve never seen a series take off with such firepower,” said Patricia Lynch, Executive Director of The Music Hall and creator of the series. Conceived in 2005, the series previously presented Alan Alda speaking on his memoir, *Never Have Your Dog Stuffed*, and Doris Kearns Goodwin discussing *Team of Rivals: the Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*.

“Of course Dan Brown speaking on our legendary stage right before the movie opens is right up with there with appearances of Mark Twain and Frederick Douglass at The Music Hall, each a phenomena in their own time,” added Lynch.

“Writers on a New England Stage” was created by The Music Hall’s Executive Director, Patricia Lynch, as a partnership between The Music Hall and NHPR in collaboration with Portsmouth’s independent RiverRun Bookstore to celebrate the life of the mind and to encourage literacy. Ticket prices are kept low (an average of \$10) so that anyone



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who loves reading and literature might experience these exciting “authors’ evenings.” For each program in the series, 50 free tickets are distributed to gifted high school students in the area to encourage their love of reading and writing.

One of the oldest stages in America The Music Hall has hosted legends Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Harry Houdini, the Barrymores, and, more recently Winton Marsalis, Shawn Colvin, and Paul Newman.

“New Hampshire Public Radio is committed to literacy and proud to be associated with this fantastic new series. Writers on a New England Stage brings so much not only to the Seacoast community but to all of our listeners” said Betsy Gardella, President of New Hampshire Public Radio.

The radio program, “Writers on a New England Stage: Dan Brown,” will be broadcast on NHPR on Monday, April 24, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. and again at 8:00 p.m. The program will also be available online at The Music Hall's website, www.musichall.org and on NHPR's website, www.nhpr.org starting on April 24, 2006.

Tickets for “Writers on a New England Stage: Dan Brown” are \$12 (\$10 for members of The Music Hall and New Hampshire Public Radio - limit four per customer). Signed copies of Dan Brown's book will be made available at the event to those purchasing book vouchers in advance through The Music Hall. Tickets and vouchers go on sale to The Music Hall members Saturday, March 25 at noon and to the general public Saturday, April 1 at noon.

About New Hampshire Public Radio: NHPR serves more than 140,000 listeners each week through a network of nine stations and transmitters. NHPR is the only statewide source of radio news, information, and entertainment for the Granite State, offering in-depth reporting of the issues facing New Hampshire residents. NHPR's staff sees the importance of providing a comprehensive information source for New Hampshire as one of the station's highest priorities. Contributions from listeners and businesses in New Hampshire make up more than 90 percent of the revenue necessary to operate NHPR.

NHPR broadcasts in Concord and Manchester at 89.1 FM; in Nashua at 90.3 FM; in Dover at 104.3 FM; in Hanover and Littleton at 91.3 FM; in Keene at 90.7 FM; in Berlin at



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107.1 FM; in Jackson at 99.5 FM; in Portsmouth at 103.9 FM; and on the Internet at nhpr.org.

About Laura Knoy: Laura Knoy is host of “The Exchange,” NHPR's daily call-in program. Laura launched the program in October 1995 after a career as a newscaster and reporter for National Public Radio in Washington. She lives in Concord with her husband, Steve, and her children Isaiah and Abraham.

“The Exchange” has won numerous statewide and national awards for excellence, and has earned a reputation as a source of in-depth and intelligent conversations on topics ranging from politics to health, from family issues to literature. Past guests have included Gov. John Lynch, Vice President Al Gore, Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, and Democratic Presidential nominee John Kerry.

About The Music Hall : The Music Hall is a non-profit performing arts center that entertains more than 70,000 patrons annually with acclaimed film, music, theater, and dance performances. The historic 900-seat theater, built in 1878, is the oldest in New Hampshire, the second oldest in New England, and the fourteenth oldest operating in the United States. Designated by the U.S. Senate as “An American Treasure” in the national Save America’s Treasures Program through the National Park Service, The Music Hall is embarking on a major restoration project to restore and improve the historic theater. In addition to its own diverse programming, The Music Hall hosts community benefits and celebrations, and acts as the cultural anchor in a thriving Seacoast economy. The Music Hall is located at 28 Chestnut Street, Portsmouth, NH. For more information, visit www.themusichall.org

Relevant websites

www.themusichall.org

www.nhpr.org

www.danbrown.com

www.sonypictures.com/movies/thedavincicode