

HAIGHTS CROSS COMMUNICATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recorded Books Salutes 2009 National Book Award for Fiction Winner – Colum McCann’s *Let the Great World Spin* – a Recorded Books Exclusive Audio Recording

Prince Frederick, MD—December 16, 2009—Recorded Books, LLC, the world’s largest independent producer of audiobooks and a Hights Cross Communications company, salutes author Colum McCann’s *Let the Great World Spin*, winner of the 2009 National Book Award for Fiction. The unabridged audio recording of *Let the Great World Spin* is published exclusively by Recorded Books and is available in CD, Playaway, and audiocassette formats.

“Recorded Books is proud that over our 30-year history, we have published top quality, prize-winning titles by many world-acclaimed authors. Our long-standing belief has been that the best published literature deserves the best possible audiobook production — from narration to editing to packaging,” says Scott Williams, Recorded Books’ president.

In addition to *Let the Great World Spin*, McCann’s novels include *Songdogs*, *This Side of Brightness* (a Recorded Books audiobook original), *Dancer*, and *Zoli*. He has been awarded numerous honors, including a Pushcart Prize, Rooney Prize, Irish Novel of the Year Award, and 2002 Ireland Fund of Monaco Princess Grace Memorial Literary Award. He was also named one of *Esquire Magazine’s* "Best and Brightest." McCann has written for such publications as *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *GQ*, *The Times*, *The Irish Times* and *La Repubblica*. He teaches fiction at CUNY Hunter College’s Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing.

Critics agree that *Let the Great World Spin* is McCann’s most ambitious and finely rendered work to date. It presents a rich vision of the complex realities of life in New York City in the 1970s — pain, beauty, mystery, and mythical promise. Author Richard Price writes, “Colum McCann offers us a lyrical cycloramic high-low portrait of New York City in its days of burning; Park Avenue matrons, Bronx junkies, Center Street judges, downtown artists and their uptown subway-tagging brethren, street priests, weary cops, wearier hookers, grieving mothers of an Asian war freshly put to bed; a masterful

chorus of voices all obliviously connected by the most ephemeral vision; a pin-dot of a man walking on air 110 stories above their heads."

About Recorded Books:

Recorded Books, LLC, a Hights Cross Communications company, produces and distributes unabridged audiobooks and other audio products to public and university libraries and schools on CD, cassette and Playaway digital player. Over 9,000 titles are available for adults, children, and young adults in English and Spanish languages narrated by professional, award-winning actors. Recorded Books also distributes music, educational lectures, independent films, and nonfiction films on DVD. Packaging is designed for high circulation. One-year warranty, cataloging, processing, and free MARC records are available. For more information, visit www.recordedbooks.com.

About Hights Cross Communications:

Founded in 1997 and based in White Plains, NY, Hights Cross Communications is a premier educational and library publisher dedicated to creating the finest books, audio products, periodicals, software and online services, serving the following markets: K-12 supplemental education, public and school libraries, and consumers. Hights Cross companies include: Triumph Learning, Buckle Down Publishing and Options Publishing, and Recorded Books. For more information, visit www.hightscross.com. Triumph Learning is HCC's test-preparation and intervention business and is comprised of its *Coach*, *Buckle Down*, and *Options* brands. Recorded Books is a leading publisher of unabridged audiobooks and other audio media for libraries, schools, and consumers, with operations in the U.S., U.K. and Australia.