

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free View Points forum series returns to Harbourfront Centre Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010 with *Inside the Musician's Studio*

Featuring Charles Spearin's "The Happiness Project"

TORONTO, ON (Monday, Jan. 11, 2010) – Harbourfront Centre's **View Points** is a forum series that explores issues in contemporary culture and showcases current culture-makers. The series examines contexts that influence contemporary artists and communities, contexts that shape the ways in which culture is produced, viewed, consumed and discussed. It is timely, responsive and designed to stretch the definition of "culture".

2010's four-part View Points series kicks off **Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010** at **8 p.m.** with *Inside the Musician's Studio* featuring **Charles Spearin's "The Happiness Project,"** hosted by **Stuart Berman**. Admission is FREE.

Inside the Musician's Studio is a unique opportunity for audience members to experience what motivates a body of creative musical work, from inspiration to collaboration and production. It is also a chance to discover new perspectives, whether audience members are established musicians, aspiring artists or just curious observers. It is a tête-à-tête between the audience and the artists. Previous artists have included Final Fantasy and Emily Haines.

Charles Spearin is a multi-instrumentalist who has been an active and influential member of Canada's indie music community since the mid-90s. He is best known as a founding member of the instrumental post-rock ensemble Do Make Say Think and an original member of the indie-rock collective Broken Social Scene. Spearin's most recent work, his first solo album entitled "The Happiness Project," is focused on the natural, unselfconscious 'music' of speech. The album is based on recorded conversations with his downtown neighbours about the concept of happiness; he plays with the cadence and melody of the speaking voices as though they were songs. His inspiration was drawn from his great love of music, a fascination with sound, and lifelong studies in Buddhism. By replicating the rise and fall of the recorded voices on different instruments, he succeeds in illuminating some of the hidden beauty of ordinary life. As Spearin says, "All of the melodies on this album are the melodies of every day life."

With "The Happiness Project," Spearin blurs the line between speaking and singing - life and art - and writes music based on these accidental melodies. With the help of some musical friends, Spearin plays the instruments to match these natural neighbourhood melodies inspired by thoughts of happiness. The end result is a unique and inspiring musical work that speaks to hidden beauty all around us.

For more information about Charles Spearin and "The Happiness Project," visit happiness-project.ca or myspace.com/charlesspearin.

ABOUT HOST STUART BERMAN

Stuart Berman is Online Editor at Eye Weekly and has been writing about the Toronto music scene for over 10 years. His writing on music and pop culture has appeared in the Toronto Star, National Post, PitchforkMedia.com, Magnet, The Village Voice, Toro and Azure. He is the author of 2009's *This Book Is Broken: A Broken Social Scene Story* and lives in Toronto.

OTHER UPCOMING FREE VIEW POINTS EVENTS:

Inside the City

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010, 7-9 p.m.

This forum event will explore the inner workings of a city, looking to provide audiences with new insights about the urban by tackling issues such as architecture, city life and politics.

Behind the Lens

Thursday, March 25, 2010, 7-9 p.m.

Explore the ever-changing trends in film and culture with this interactive screening and forum event. A current film will be presented followed by a discussion with directors and other insiders.

Inside the Musician's Studio

Thursday, April 29, 2010, 7-9 p.m.

The 2010 View Points series comes to a close with a second music-based tête-à-tête. Featured artist and host TBA.

All View Points events take place at Harbourfront Centre, 235 Queens Quay West. For additional information and complete event listings, the public may visit harbourfrontcentre.com or call the Information Hotline at **416-973-4000**.

ABOUT HARBOURFRONT CENTRE

Harbourfront Centre is an innovative, non-profit cultural organization which provides internationally renowned programming in the arts, culture, education and recreation, all within a collection of distinctive venues on a 10-acre site in the heart of Toronto's downtown waterfront.