



February 24, 2007

For Immediate Release

## **Music, Dandelions and Youth's Dreams took flight into the sky**

Music and thousands of paper-made dandelions took flight at the two-shows only << *Living the Dream* >> Across U-hub fundraising concert, carrying hopes and dreams of Chinese Canadian youths up high at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto concert theatre last night. An estimation of \$50,000 has been raised for future funding of Across U-hub youth programs.

<< *Living the Dream* >> is based on the belief that everyone has dreams and these dreams transcend generations and cultures. The concert has been a vivid embodiment of what these dreams and struggles are made of. In the midst of the "shower of dandelions", the finale <Flying Dreams> sang aloud these dreams which came from both the parents and the children, "Exploring old grounds once made me realize that our forefathers have written a beautiful poem for the world ...I want to ascend to a higher horizon to see more clearly the needs of our world. I'd love to do even the simplest tasks, anticipating a final dream-come-true". The "shower of dandelion" or "shower of dreams" were a collection of hopes and dreams from 1300 youths.

The song <Three Voices> performed in English, Cantonese and Mandarin, has reflected Chinese Canadian youths who came from different backgrounds, not only have to adapt to the Canadian society but also struggle in learning to accept one another's differences, "My friend, do you know where you stand? And you are crossing into this foreign land?..Let's share the views, let's try to love and realize. Please hold my hand, tomorrow awaits."

<< *Living the Dream* >> began with an introduction Across U-hub's youth community through music and video, followed by seasoned professional music artist Larry Hung and young songwriters Desmond Lo engaged in a heartfelt dialogue in words and in songs about their experience on the music journey. The other side of the story from the parents could be heard

as well, the band “UniSon” which was formed by six fathers, sang about dreams they had as youths and their dreams for their children. In response, the young performers expressed passion and desire to chase after their dreams.

From front stage performance to backstage, parking patrol to usher, the << *Living the Dream* >> concert was carried out by youths. All the songs were written and performed by youths as well. Across U-hub believes that dreams without action would remain idle and eventually might perish without a single spark. <<*Living the Dream*>> providing a platform for dream-weaving youth talents to showcase their creativity and the intrinsic variations in Toronto’s Chinese cultures.

Across U-hub Executive Director Nicole Wong believed the two-day << *Living the Dream* >> concert and the <Happenstance> album has raised interest within the Chinese community about the importance in allowing young people to dream, the effort was also appreciated by members from other ethnicity.

On Feb 18, 2007, department store The Bay has invited Across U-hub to host a preview concert right at their Scarborough Town Centre branch, many people at the store were touched by the passion came through the music performed by these youth talents. This experience has showed that the Across U-hub spirit transcend cultural boundaries, we believe Chinese Canadian youths have dreams and the ability to bring on a refreshing positive youth culture.

Eight songs performed at << *Living the Dream* >> could be found in the album <Happenstance>, which was the first ever album production by Across U-hub. All proceedings from the concert and the album would be funding future youth works and leadership programs of Across U-hub.

The word, “Happenstance”, mean Happen(ing) plus (Circum)stance, a circumstances due to chance. In heart and passion, we wish to meet others who carry the same vision on this journey.

The “Happenstance” album is available at the concert on February 24 and 25<sup>th</sup>, it could also be purchased at the Across U-hub office (160 Gibson Drive, Unit 1, Markham). For further details, please contact us at (905) 944-1944 or visit us at our website ([www.acrossuhub.com](http://www.acrossuhub.com)).

Across U-hub understands the need of young people to have platforms in to pursue their dreams. Since 1997, Across U-hub have organized training, workshops, youth camps and mentorship program to encourage young people to take steps in achieving their dreams.