ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING ACTOR/PRODUCER MICHAEL DOUGLAS NARRATES ‘NOBEL VOICES FOR DISARMAMENT: 1901–2001,’ OUT AUGUST 26 ON SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS

On August 26, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings will release ‘Nobel Voices for Disarmament: 1901–2001,’ a stirring collection of new and archival spoken-word recordings by the most prominent advocates for peace during a century marred by war and bloodshed. Introduced and narrated by Academy Award-winning actor, producer and United Nations Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas, ‘Nobel Voices’ honors the achievements of the last century’s Nobel Peace Prize winners in disarmament and arms control and those who have been inspired by their work.

After two world wars, the United Nations was created with the purpose of preserving international peace through collective security. However, the post–World War II period also saw an escalating arms race between the superpowers that posed a catastrophic threat to human life and the environment. Many scientists, physicians, and public servants, acutely conscious of the dangers inherent in nuclear war, could not remain silent in the face of such a potential calamity.

Their are not the only voices included in this unique compilation. Other exceptional individuals who worked tirelessly to promote humanitarian causes—through the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the United Nations itself—are featured as well.

With thirty-nine tracks organized into eight chapters, ‘Nobel Voices’ offers testimonials from luminaries such as Kofi Annan, Bill Clinton, John F. Kennedy, Jane Addams, Jody Williams and Linus Pauling. Their stories exemplify the legacy of Swedish chemist, engineer and inventor of dynamite, Alfred Bernhard Nobel, for whom the award recognizing efforts in international peace was named in 1901. The Nobel Peace Prize remains the most prestigious distinction given to men and women advocating peace and justice.

This CD was made possible by the generous support of the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, the Principality of Andorra, and Smithsonian’s Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation. ‘Nobel Voices’ is an invaluable historical resource, preserving the most significant speeches and voices in the fight for disarmament in the 20th century. The album is also an empowering educational tool for promoting peace through awareness and giving listeners the opportunity to engage in the process of creating a more humane future throughout the world.

NOTE: Smithsonian Folkways Recordings retail distribution is through RYKO Distribution at 800.808.RYKO. Smithsonian Folkways Recordings releases are available through record and book outlets. Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, as well as the original Folkways, Cook, Dyer-Bennet, Monitor, Paredon, Collector and Fast Folk
collections, are available via mail order at 1.888.FOLKWAYS or 800.410.9815 and via the Internet. Visit the Smithsonian Folkways Recordings website at www.folkways.si.edu and www.smithsonianglobalsound.org.

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