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**MIDWEST SPECIAL SERVICES PARTNERS WITH NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED  
COMPOSER TO CREATE MUSIC INSPIRED BY ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES**

(ST. PAUL, Minn.)—[Midwest Special Services, Inc.](#), (MSS) has partnered with Chris Coyle, one of two artists who received the McKnight Visiting Composers Fellowship, to create a mixed-media project that is inspired by the organization's clients. For two months, starting July 16, Coyle will reside in Minnesota as he works on this cumulative project, called [Outside Sound](#), which is designed to use the artwork created by adults with developmental disabilities as inspiration for his music.

Coyle will run music workshops; photograph artwork, interview MSS clients, and record sound and video at the Brooklyn Park and Eagan MSS Centers. At the end of his eight-week residency, Coyle will perform a live concert on the newly built stage at the MSS Eagan Center. The musical presentation will include performances from some of the MSS clients, as well as the compositions that were inspired by them.

"The stage, a gift from Wenger Corporation in Owatonna, adds a whole new dimension to our multi-faceted creative arts program," says Chris Salter, Program Director of Midwest Special Services, Inc. "Our Creative Arts program has mounted theatrical and musical performances in the past, but we have always had to source performance space in the community for these endeavors. The Chris Coyle musical presentation will be the first event on the new Eagan Center stage, and we look forward to having this space and stage available to all similar MSS programs moving forward."

"I began working on this project in Philadelphia and Boston, but this will be the first time that I expand my project efforts to the Midwest," says Chris Coyle, Project Director and Composer at Outside Sound. "During my time at Midwest Special Services, I will strive to capture what the MSS clients are

hearing and feeling, even if it means disregarding common musical norms."

**About Midwest Special Services, Inc.**

Midwest Special Services, Inc. was established in 1949 with a mission to help people with disabilities to achieve their full potential and greater independence through individualized services and supports. With five locations in the Twin Cities metro area, MSS supports the ambitions and unique needs of over 600 adults each year who are living with significant disabilities. With more than 60 years of service to the community, MSS has never wavered from its mission, empowering 100 percent of each person's ability to make choices in their daily lives. For more information visit [www.mwsservices.org](http://www.mwsservices.org), log on to the Midwest Special Services [Facebook](#) page, and follow them on [Twitter, @MWSservices](#).