



**NEW HIGH-PROFILE ARTIST PERFORMANCES ADDED TO
41st ANNUAL GMA DOVE AWARDS, APRIL 21, AT THE GRAND OLE OPRY HOUSE**

**Powerhouse Lineup to include Performances by tobyMac, Casting Crowns,
Bebe & Cece Winans, Natalie Grant with Jordin Sparks, MercyMe, Ricky Skaggs
and a Special Tribute for 100 Years of Southern Gospel**

(NASHVILLE, Tenn.) March 30, 2010 – Many of the most popular acts in gospel/Christian music continue to be added to the performance lineup for the anticipated **41st Annual GMA Dove Awards**, gospel music’s biggest night of the year, held on **Wednesday, April 21, 2010**, at Nashville’s historic Grand Ole Opry House. The buzz-worthy show will feature artists from every style coming together for a night of music, celebration and never-before-seen collaborations coming to life only once on this stage.

The newest performers announced include Dove-winning Artist of the Year, **tobyMac** with Diverse City, famed GRAMMY-winners **Bebe & Cece Winans**, and GMA’s reigning Female Vocalist of the Year for four consecutive years, **Natalie Grant** with special guest American Idol Season 6 winner, **Jordin Sparks**. The genre’s five-time Dove Award-winning Group of the Year, **Casting Crowns** plans for a mass children’s choir to join the live performance of its No. 1 song “Until the Whole World Hears.”

Also confirmed is platinum-selling band **MercyMe**, GRAMMY-winning bluegrass icon **Ricky Skaggs**, Stellar Award-winning Artist and Producer of Year **Donald Lawrence** teaming up with Southern Gospel power vocalist **Jason Crabb**, plus Artist of the Year nominee **Francesca Battistelli**, New Artist nominee **Kari Jobe** with hitmakers **Phillips, Craig & Dean**, legendary singer/songwriter **Gordon Kennedy**, and a special musical tribute honoring 100 years of Southern Gospel featuring the **Blackwood Brothers**, **Booth Brothers**, **Legacy 5**, **Crabb Family**, **The Perrys** and **Mosie Lister**.

The **41st Annual GMA Dove Awards** will be televised nationwide on **gmc** (<http://www.gmclife.com>), **Sunday, April 25, 2010** from **8 p.m. - 10 p.m. EST**. While the awards are the purpose of the show, music performances will definitely share center stage at the GMA Dove Awards, showcasing some of gospel music’s hottest and most diverse artists. Dove Awards will be handed out in 43 categories. Dove Awards nominations go to recordings released during the eligibility year November 1, 2008 through October 31, 2009 and voted on by the members of the GMA. The complete nominations list is available at both www.gospelmusic.org and www.doveawards.com.

Tickets to the 41st Annual GMA Dove Awards are currently on sale through the Grand Ole Opry Call Center, 1-800-SEE-OPRY/1-800-733-6779, via the web at www.opry.com or may be purchased in-person at The Opry Box Office located at the Opry House at 2804 Opryland Drive and the Ryman Auditorium Box Office at 116 5th Ave North, in downtown Nashville. Ticket prices range from \$25 - \$200.

About GMA:

Founded in 1964, the Gospel Music Association serves as the face and voice for the Christian/Gospel music community and is dedicated to exposing, promoting and celebrating the Gospel through music of all styles including Pop, Rock, Praise & Worship, Urban Gospel, R&B, Hip Hop, Southern Gospel, Bluegrass, Country and more. The GMA community consists of more than 2,200 members including agents, artists, church leaders, managers, promoters, radio personnel, record company executives, retailers, songwriters and other industry visionaries. The GMA produces the GMA Dove Awards, GMA Dove Week and IMMERSE. For more on supporting the GMA or becoming a member, please visit www.gospelmusic.org or contact the GMA directly at 615.277.1376.

About GMC:

gmc is the fastest-growing network in television and can be seen in 46 million homes on various cable systems around the country, on DIRECTV on channel 338 and on Verizon FiOS on channel 224. www.gmclife.com

###

For more information, please contact:

Lisa Kent at lisa@gospelmusic.org

Jacquelyn (Marushka) Luttrell 615-261-6439 or pr@pmgsonymusic.com