



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CASTING CROWNS ATTENDS 50TH ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS WITH THREE NODS



Photo Caption, Casting Crowns with Carrie Underwood: *Members of Casting Crowns pause for a photo with GRAMMY-winner Carrie Underwood at the SONY BMG post GRAMMY party at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Sunday evening. Pictured (L-R): Hector Cervantes, Carrie Underwood, Chris Huffman and Mark Hall.*

(Nashville, Tenn.) Feb.12, 2008 – Christian music’s top-selling, top-touring and multi-platinum artist **Casting Crowns** hit the red carpet with three nominations for the 50th GRAMMY Awards ceremony held Sunday, Feb. 10, at the STAPLES Center in Los Angeles. The group received high-profile media attention during red-carpet arrivals interviewing with national outlets including The Tonight Show, CNN, Entertainment Weekly, Billboard and ABC, FOX, Extra and the Associated Press.

Casting Crowns led the Gospel categories with three nominations recognized in the **Best Gospel Performance** and **Best Gospel Song** categories for its No.1 song “East to West” and a nod for **Best Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album** for the group’s blockbuster third album *The Altar and The Door*. The GRAMMY nominations follow Casting Crowns’ recent win at the 2007 American Music Awards in November and the 2006 GRAMMY win for previous album *Lifesong*.

With the release of the band's new album *The Altar and The Door*, Casting Crowns ended 2007 as the

No.1 top-selling Christian music artist according to the *Billboard* music charts. The GRAMMY-nominated album has sold more than 580,000 copies and was certified RIAA Gold in the first 10 weeks following its historical debut at No. 2 on *The Billboard 200* chart in Sept., second only to *High School Musical 2*, setting a new record for a Christian artist without crossover promotion in the mainstream market. The album held at No.1 for **11** weeks on SoundScan's Top Christian Albums chart and 13 weeks at No.1 on iTunes. The first radio single "East to West" spent 14 weeks at No. 1 on Christian AC radio. Plus, more than 200,000 fans attended the fall leg of Casting Crowns' The Altar and The Door Fall Tour claiming the top-grossing Christian music event of the year grossing 4.4 million in ticket sales. The spring leg kicked off Jan. 31 and will hit 48 cities.

During its four-year career, Casting Crowns has been honored with a GRAMMY Award win and three nominations, an American Music Award, and a host of Gospel Music Dove Awards serving as the industry's "Group of the Year" for the last three years. Casting Crowns has been the most played artist on all Christian radio formats combined, with seven consecutive No.1 AC radio hits, and the group has sold more than 3.5 million albums to date. In 2007, Casting Crowns set an RIAA record as the fastest Christian music artist in its career to have its first two albums certified Platinum, and only the second in RIAA history ever to achieve it. Casting Crowns' lead singer and songwriter is full-time Youth Pastor **Mark Hall**, who is serving his 17th year as student pastor at **Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church** in Atlanta. All seven band members remain active in student ministry in the Atlanta-area and tour part-time around their local-church duties. For more information, please visit www.CastingCrowns.com or www.reunionrecords.com.

Established in 1957, The Recording Academy is an organization of musicians, producers, engineers and recording professionals that is dedicated to improving the cultural condition and quality of life for music and its makers. Internationally known for the GRAMMY Awards — the preeminent peer-recognized award for musical excellence and the most credible brand in music — The Recording Academy is responsible for groundbreaking professional development, cultural enrichment, advocacy, education and human services programs. In its 50th year, The Academy continues to focus on its mission of recognizing musical excellence, advocating for the well-being of music makers and ensuring music remains an indelible part of our culture. For more information about The Academy, please **visit www.grammy.com**.

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