



Friends,

Please find Michael W. Smith's **IT'S A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS: THE SYMPHONY TOUR** press release from our friend, Debra Akins.

In addition to launching a tour, Michael also releases *GLORY*, his 23rd career album and second instrumental project, this week. TUNE IN to "**The Sean Hannity Radio Show**" Wednesday, **Nov. 23** from **3-6 PM EST** (visit [www.hannity.com](http://www.hannity.com) for local listings) and on **FOX News Channel's "HANNITY"** on **Thanksgiving** day at **9 PM EST**.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a wonderful holiday.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MICHAEL W. SMITH CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS WITH  
IT'S A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS: THE SYMPHONY TOUR**

*Introducing Very Special Guests L'Angelus  
Tour Features Full Symphony Orchestra and Spans 13 Performances in 8 Cities*

(NASHVILLE, Tenn.) November 21, 2011 – GRAMMY® award-winning and multi-platinum selling artist **Michael W. Smith** is preparing to launch his highly-anticipated holiday event, **It's A Wonderful Christmas: The Symphony Tour**. Featuring a full symphony orchestra each night, the tour will also introduce audiences to the infectious musical stylings of **L'Angelus** (Lawn-Jay-Loose), an incredible four-piece family band with Louisiana roots and Americana influences. This seasonal crowd favorite concert series kicks off Nov. 26, in Toledo, Ohio, and will span 13 performances in eight major markets including Dallas, Houston, St. Louis, Jacksonville and more.

Smith has inspired millions with his music, as evidenced by his 16 gold, seven platinum and two double-platinum albums, which contribute to career sales of 15 million. He draws hundreds of thousands to his concerts each year, and has in particular become one of the most popular holiday performers in the music industry today. The Associated Press calls Smith's Christmas music "cinematic," and his annual holiday concert series continues to sell out venue after venue. The year's **It's A Wonderful Christmas: The Symphony Tour** will again feature Smith with a full symphony orchestra, performing selections from his three acclaimed Christmas albums including *It's A Wonderful Christmas* (2007), *Christmastime* (1998) and *Christmas* (1993), along with a few key titles from his brand new instrumental album and 23<sup>rd</sup> career record, *Glory* (Nov. 22). The symphony will be conducted each night by the tour's musical director, producer/arranger **David Hamilton**, who has conducted numerous orchestras including the National Philharmonic and recently made his debut appearance at Carnegie Hall. Hamilton also worked closely with Smith on the *Glory* project.

A family of expert musicians, incredible singers and top-notch live entertainers, L'Angelus combines the best of Louisiana's music traditions: Cajun fiddle tunes, saxophone-driven swamp-pop, and New Orleans-

influenced R&B. The dynamic, high-energy four-piece band incorporates multiple instruments including guitar, bass, drums, fiddle, saxophone and harmonica. L'Angelus will perform selections from their holiday release, *O Night Divine*, as well as from their acclaimed indie projects, *Ca C'est Bon* and *Sacred Hymns Collection*.

### **About Michael W. Smith:**

Throughout his 29-year career as a recording artist, **Michael W. Smith** has amassed an impressive catalog of achievements. His prior 22 albums have garnered multiple honors including an American Music Award, three GRAMMY® Awards (from 13 nominations), 44 GMA Dove Awards and 33 No. 1 radio hits. In addition, he holds 16 Gold, 7 Platinum and 2 Double-Platinum albums for career sales of 15 million. *Wonder*, Smith's 22nd career album, released Sept. 28, 2010. Inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2009, Smith has scored film projects, written 12 books and been featured by media outlets including "Hannity," NBC's "Today," ABC's "Good Morning America," "NBC Nightly News," "Larry King Live," "FOX & Friends," *The Associated Press*, *Billboard*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsweek* and more.

Constantly giving back to the community, one of Smith's current projects is Rockettown – a nightclub for teens in his hometown of Nashville, Tenn. – which serves as a safe place for young people to enjoy music and for artists to be discovered. He and wife of 30 years, Debbie, are the proud parents of five children. **Michael W. Smith** releases *Glory*, his 23rd career project and second full-length instrumental album, on Nov. 21.

For more information on **Michael W. Smith** please visit: [www.michaelwsmith.com](http://www.michaelwsmith.com), [www.facebook.com/michaelwsmithofficial](http://www.facebook.com/michaelwsmithofficial), or [www.providentpress.com](http://www.providentpress.com)

### **About L'Angelus**

Taking its name from an ancient prayer, L'Angelus performs as a dynamic high energy four piece band, featuring Katie, 27, Paige, 26, Johnny, 24, and Stephen, 22. They describe their sound as Louisiana roots, but still love to play the popular old rock and country and Motown tunes - Americana music. Audiences across North America and Europe are drawn to the "joie de vivre" that radiates from the stage. Music in the Cajun culture has always been a unifying force - it brings families together on the front porch and at the parish dance.

Selected in 2006 by Billboard Magazine from over 1,400 artists as one of 6 finalists in the Independent Music World Series, L'Angelus has been steadily gaining international attention. Two of their original compositions were featured in the nationwide PBS documentary on Louisiana's Wetlands, *Washing Away*, narrated by Susan Sarandon. May of 2009 marked their first internationally televised concert, with an hour long interview and performance on EWTN's "Life on the Rock", where the group explored the influence that the Catholic culture of community celebrations has had on the development of Cajun and Irish music. Their most recent release, *Sacred Hymns Collection*, was picked up for international distribution by Ignatius Press, the world's largest Catholic publishing company, and quickly became one of the most popular items in their music catalogue. On tour in Ireland this past summer, the trio of musicians was literally grabbed off the street to interview and perform live on the country's two largest radio programs, "RTE with Pat Kenny" and "BBC Radio Live." For more information, visit [www.langelus.com](http://www.langelus.com).

### **2011 IT'S A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS: The Symphony Tour with Michael W. Smith**

November 26	Toledo, OH - The Toledo Symphony Orchestra
December 5	Everett, WA - Comcast Arena
December 6	Edmonton, AB - Winspear Centre For Music
December 7	Edmonton, AB - Winspear Centre For Music
December 9	St. Louis, MO - Powell Symphony Hall
December 10	St. Louis, MO - Powell Symphony Hall
December 11	Houston, TX - Second Baptist Church

December 12            Dallas, TX - Meyerson Symphony Center  
December 13            Dallas, TX - Meyerson Symphony Center  
December 15            Costa Mesa, CA - Renee & Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall  
December 16            Costa Mesa, CA - Renee & Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall  
December 17            Costa Mesa, CA - Renee & Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall  
December 20            Jacksonville, FL - Moran Theatre (Times Union Center PAC)

For tickets and the most up-to-date information on It's A Wonderful Christmas: The Symphony Tour, go to [www.michaelwsmith.com](http://www.michaelwsmith.com).

###

**For More Information Contact:**

Jacquelyn Marushka / 615-261-6500 / [pr@pmgsonymusic.com](mailto:pr@pmgsonymusic.com) or

Matthew Faulkenbury / 615-261-6439 / [matthew.faulkenbury.sme@pmgsonymusic.com](mailto:matthew.faulkenbury.sme@pmgsonymusic.com)

Also, visit <http://www.providentpress.com/> for more artist information and press materials

**Tour Publicity Contact:**

Debra Akins | Southside Entertainment

[Debra@DebraAkins.com](mailto:Debra@DebraAkins.com) | 321.747.0078

Twitter: [@DebraAkins](https://twitter.com/DebraAkins)