



## Francesca Battistelli Receives Five Nominations for 40<sup>th</sup> Annual GMA Dove Awards, Including Song of the Year, Female Vocalist of the Year, New Artist of the Year

### Word Records' Remedy Drive and Fervent Records' Group 1 Crew each collect three nominations

(NASHVILLE, TN) *February 20, 2009* –Today Word Entertainment, through its artists, projects and other contributors, garnered 56 GMA Dove Award nominations, with Fervent/Reprise Records' new singer/songwriter Francesca Battistelli leading the way with five nominations, including “Song of the Year” (“I’m Letting Go”), “Female Vocalist of the Year,” and “New Artist of the Year.”

“I am thrilled and honored to just be nominated!” says Battistelli. “It’s humbling to be among such great company, especially as a new artist, and being nominated for Song of the Year is a dream come true. I’m still soaking it all in!”

Word Records’ rock newcomers Remedy Drive were also honored in this year’s “New Artist” category, in addition to nods for “Rock/Contemporary Album” (*Daylight Is Coming*), and “Short Form Music Video” (“Daylight”). Fervent Records’ Dove-award winning hip hop trio Group 1 Crew were also honored in three categories this year, including “Rock/Contemporary Song” (“Keys To The Kingdom”), “Rap/Hip Hop Album” (*Ordinary Dreamers*), and “Short Form Music Video” (“Movin”). Word Records’ powerhouse vocalist David Phelps received “Male Vocalist of the Year” and “Long Form Music Video” (“O Holy Night”) nominations, while Word Records’ new worship artist Meredith Andrews garnered two nominations for “Worship Song” (“You’re Not Alone”) and “Praise & Worship Album” (*The Invitation*). Canaan Records’ legendary Kim Hopper also received two GMA Dove Award nominations including “Bluegrass Recorded Song” (“What Will I Wear”) and “Southern Gospel Album” (*I Just Wanted You To Know*).

Word Label Group (a division of Word Entertainment comprised of Word Records, Fervent Records, Myrrh Records, Canaan Records and Word Music Publishing) garnered 38 nominations, including top categories “Song,” “Male Vocalist” (David Phelps), “Female Vocalist” (Francesca Battistelli) as well as “New Artist” (Francesca Battistelli and Remedy Drive).

Word Distribution, another division of Word Entertainment, collected an additional 17 nominations including two nominations for “Song of the Year” (Chris Sligh and Natalie Grant), “Female Vocalist of the Year” (Natalie Grant), and “New Artist of the Year” (Chris Sligh).

Word Music was represented with five nominations, including two for “Musical of the Year,” one for “Youth/Children’s Musical of the Year,” and two for “Choral Collection of the Year.”

Encompassing distributed labels, artists, affiliated producers, published writers and printed collections, Word Entertainment has representation in 31 of 43 total nomination categories.

A full list of Word Entertainment and Word Label Group finalists are below. The GMA Dove Awards event will be held April 23, 2009 at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville.

*Word Entertainment, a Warner/Curb company, is comprised of Word Distribution, Word Music and Word Label Group’s Word Records, Fervent Records, Myrrh Records, Canaan Records and Word Music Publishing. Leading the industry with over 50 years of music making history, Word Entertainment represents some of Christian entertainment’s top brands, including award-*

winning artists Point Of Grace, BarlowGirl, Mark Schultz, Randy Travis, Selah, Natalie Grant, Aaron Shust, Big Daddy Weave and Nicole C. Mullen, in addition to Big Idea's successful VeggieTales video series.

(cont'd)

<b>Song of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Empty Me"; Chris Sligh, Clint Lagerberg, Tony Wood; Foolish Tool Music (ASCAP), Word Music LLC (ASCAP), Kindacrazy Music (BMI), Row J Seat 9 Songs (ASCAP), New Spring Publishing (ASCAP), Bridge Building Music (BMI)</li> <li>• "I Will Not Be Moved"; Natalie Grant; Nat In The Hat (ASCAP) "I'm Letting Go"; Francesca Battistelli, Tony Wood, Ian Eskelin; Designer Music (SESAC), Word Music LLC (ASCAP), Honest &amp; Popular Songs (SESAC), Row J Seat 9 Songs (ASCAP), New Spring Publishing Inc.</li> </ul>
<b>Male Vocalist of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Phelps</li> </ul>
<b>Female Vocalist of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Francesca Battistelli</li> <li>• Natalie Grant</li> </ul>
<b>New Artist of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Francesca Battistelli</li> <li>• Remedy Drive</li> <li>• Chris Sligh</li> </ul>
<b>Producer of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brown Bannister</li> <li>• Ian Eskelin</li> <li>• Bernie Herms</li> <li>• Jason Ingram, Rusty Varenkamp</li> </ul>
<b>Rock Recorded Song of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Better Man"; <i>Satisfied</i>; DecembeRadio; Josh Reedy, Brian Bunn, Eric Miker, Boone Daughdrill, Scotty Wilbanks; Slanted Records</li> <li>• "Shine Like The Stars"; <i>Expect The Impossible</i>; Stellar Kart; Adam Agee, Ian Eskelin; Word Records</li> </ul>
<b>Rock/Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Find You Waiting"; <i>Satisfied</i>; DecembeRadio; Josh Reedy, Brian Bunn, Eric Miker, Boone Daughdrill, Scotty Wilbanks; Slanted Records</li> <li>• "Keys To The Kingdom"; <i>Ordinary Dreamers</i>; Group 1 Crew; Manwell Reyes, Pablo Villatoro, Andy Anderson, Noe A. Chapparo; Fervent Records</li> <li>• "Washed By The Water"; <i>The Heat</i>; NEEDTOBREATHE; Bear Rinehart, Bo Rinehart; Atlantic Records</li> </ul>
<b>Pop/Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "I Will Not Be Moved"; <i>Relentless</i>; Natalie Grant; Natalie Grant; Curb Records</li> <li>• "I'm Letting Go"; <i>My Paper Heart</i>; Francesca Battistelli; Francesca Battistelli, Ian Eskelin, Tony Wood; Fervent Records</li> </ul>
<b>Inspirational Recorded Song of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "A New Hallelujah"; <i>A New Hallelujah</i>; Michael W. Smith; Michael W. Smith, Debbie Smith, Paul Baloche; Reunion Records</li> <li>• "Dependence"; Jamie Slocum; Jamie Slocum; Curb Records</li> </ul>
<b>Bluegrass Recorded Song of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "What Will I Wear"; <i>I Just Wanted You To Know</i>; Kim Hopper; Deborah Bailey; Canaan Records</li> </ul>

<b>Southern Gospel Recorded Song of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Big Mighty God"; <i>Nothin' But Good</i>; The Mike LeFevre Quartet; Lee Black, Sue C. Smith, Kenna West; Canaan Records</li> <li>• "Yahweh"; <i>The Ride</i>; The Hoppers; Paula Stefanovich; Canaan Records</li> </ul>
<b>Country Recorded Song of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "I Wish"; <i>How You Live Deluxe Edition</i>; Point Of Grace; Cindy Morgan, Phil Madeira; Word Records</li> </ul>
<b>Urban Recorded Song of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "No Looking Back"; <i>No Looking Back</i>; Damita; Damita Haddon; Tyscot Records</li> </ul>
<b>Worship Song of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "A New Hallelujah"; Michael W. Smith, Debbie Smith, Paul Baloche; Word Music LLC, SmittyFly Music, This Is Your Time Music, Integrity's Hosanna! Music, Leadworship Songs</li> <li>• "Breathe On Me"; Natalie Grant; Nat In The Hat Music</li> <li>• "You're Not Alone"; Meredith Andrews; Word Music LLC</li> </ul>
<b>Rap/Hip Hop Album of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ordinary Dreamers</i>; Group 1 Crew; Christopher Stevens, Andy Anderson, Sam Mizell; Fervent Records</li> </ul>
<b>Rock Album of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Satisfied</i>; DecembeRadio; Scotty Wilbanks; Slanted Records</li> </ul>
<b>Rock/Contemporary Album of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Daylight Is Coming</i>; Remedy Drive; Ian Eskelin; Word Records</li> <li>• <i>Expect The Impossible</i>; Stellar Kart; Ian Eskelin; Word Records</li> <li>• <i>Hello; After Edmund</i>; Scotty Wilbanks; Slanted Records</li> </ul>
<b>Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>My Paper Heart</i>; Francesca Battistelli; Ian Eskelin; Word Records</li> <li>• <i>Relentless</i>; Natalie Grant; Bernie Herms, Shaun</li> </ul>
<b>Inspirational Album of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Infinite Grace</i>; Women of Faith Worship Team; Chance Scoggins; Myrrh Records</li> </ul>
<b>Southern Gospel Album of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I Just Wanted You To Know</i>; Kim Hopper; Dave Clark, Kim Hopper; Canaan Records</li> </ul>
<b>Country Album of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Around the Bend</i>; Randy Travis; Kyle Lehning; Warner Bros. Records</li> </ul>
<b>Urban Album of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>No Looking Back</i>; Damita; Gerald Haddon, Tim &amp; Bob, Deitrick Haddon, Courtney Horton, David Garcia; Tyscot Records</li> </ul>
<b>Instrumental Album of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Always There</i>; Harold Rayford; Antoine Chamber; Tyscot Records</li> </ul>

<b>Children's Music Album of</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Absolute Modern Worship for Kids 4</i>; Phoebe Ebensberger, Abie Ebensberger, Joseph O'Brien, Timmy O'Brien, Mikey O'Brien, Abbie</li> </ul>
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<b>the Year</b>	Chapman, Meghan O'Brien, Adelaide Bauer, Kristen Bauer, Karissa Selby, Emma Rose Williamson, Tyler Beiden, Garrett Williamson; Chance Scoggins; Fervent Records
<b>Christmas Album of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Christmas Songs</i>; Fernando Ortega; John Andrew Schreiner, Fernando Ortega; Curb Records</li> <li>• <i>Home For Christmas</i>; BarlowGirl; Otto Price; Fervent Records, Curb Records</li> <li>• <i>Peace on Earth</i>; Casting Crowns; Mark Hall, Mark A. Miller; Beach Street</li> </ul>
<b>Praise &amp; Worship Album of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A New Hallelujah</i>; Michael W. Smith; Michael W. Smith; Reunion Records</li> <li>• <i>The Invitation</i>; Meredith Andrews; Jason Ingram, Rusty Varenkamp; Word Records</li> </ul>
<b>Musical of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Child Of Wonder</i>; Lari Goss, Rob Howard; Word Music</li> <li>• <i>East to West</i>; Gary Rhodes; Word Music</li> </ul>
<b>Youth/Children's Musical of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Christmas County Spelling Bee</i>; Celeste Clydesdale; Clydesdale &amp; Clydesdale, Word Music</li> </ul>
<b>Choral Collection of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I'll Say Yes</i>; Carol Cymbala; Word Music (Brooklyn Tabernacle Music)</li> <li>• <i>Make A Joyful Noise</i>; Regi Stone; Word Music</li> </ul>
<b>Short Form Music Video of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Daylight</i>; Remedy Drive; John Erwin, Andy Erwin; Erwin Brothers Motion Pictures; Word Records</li> <li>• <i>Movin'</i>; Group 1 Crew; John Erwin, Andy Erwin; Dan Atchison; Erwin Brothers Motion Pictures; Fervent Records</li> </ul>
<b>Long Form Music Video of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>O Holy Night</i>; David Phelps; David Phelps, Jimmy Abegg; David Phelps, Jim Chaffee, Jimmy Abegg, Ben Pearson; MG&amp;A; Word Records</li> </ul>