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THE RECORDING ACADEMY this week announced that Israel and New Breed will be part of a special gospel segment to air during the 50th Annual GRAMMY® Awards next Monday Australian time. Israel and New Breed will perform alongside Aretha Franklin, Mary J. Blige, and Trin-I-Tee 5:7.

KEVIN MAX hits the road this month in America for an extensive radio and retail tour, followed by *The Blood Drive* - a headlining concert tour that will run through to the end of the year. KI Entertainment recently released Max's latest CD *The Blood* featuring guest appearances from Amy Grant, Vince Gill, Mary Mary's Erica Campbell, Joanne Cash and dc Talk - of which he was once a member. Max is in Texas filming the lead role for the motion picture, *The Imposter*. Coincidentally, this is the title of his previous CD. Max plays Johnny C the lead singer of a faith-based, chart-topping band whose personal demons—drug addiction and ego—send him on a downward spiral until he loses everything that's meaningful in his life. Some would say it's a case of art reflecting real life.

EMI RELEASES the new Mae CD *Singularity* throughout Australia and New Zealand this weekend. Mae says the new songs "talk about something greater than themselves", but they're not prepared to be labeled a "Christian band". *Christianity Today* says *Singularity* sparks conversation without getting into specifics or answers. It says "some will be frustrated by the band's ambiguity, while others appreciate the seeker approach". Mae is appearing at the Sound Wave Festivals throughout Australia later this month.

THREE DECADES ago, the world's greatest rock poet stunned his admirers by crafting a trio of heartfelt gospel albums dedicated to God. Under-rated at the time, albums like *Slow Train Coming*, *Saved* and *Shot Of Love* have gone on to become true classics, inspiring the spiritual paths of people around the world. In Australia, a few of these musical disciples - Guryel Ali, Rod Gear (x Sons of Korah), Doug MacDonald (x Goanna) and other band mates - have gathered together to breathe life into Bob Dylan's gospel legacy with The Gospel Chapel Band. The group is taking Dylan's music to the Adelaide Fringe Festival and Geelong this month before launching a full scale national tour later this year. The Gospel Chapel Band will also open Trippin' The Sixties for Barry McGuire and Terry Talbot this Friday at the National Theatre, St Kilda.

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Stew Smith the drummer from Delirious? will perform his last show with the band next month at London's Indigo Club.

Skillet's drummer Lori Peters has left the band to be replaced by Jen Ledger.

Edwin Derricutt will play at Rezfest in Melbourne over Easter.