

21 March 2009

### AUSSIES SUCCEED AT INTERNATIONAL SONGWRITING CONTEST

A little known Aussie singer songwriter has won second place honors in the pop/ballad section of the prestigious Unisong International Songwriting contest.

Candice Casagrande from Lismore NSW this week took out the award for the song *Make It A Good 1* after *American Idol* songwriter finalist Ryan Martinez pipped her to the top honor.

Candice, who is set to launch her debut CD *New Day* this week, says receiving international recognition for her work so early in her career is encouraging.

"It's awesome...I'm so stoked... I am very honored," Candice says.

Aussies did well in several other categories of this year's competition:

- o Phil Usher - formerly of Beanbag - won third place in the rock/alternative category with *Trip Wires*.
- o Newcastle based folk singer Ali Heise took out second place in the Gospel/Christian category with *Beyond My Plan*.
- o And Roma Waterman gained a listing in the finals of the same category with *When Love is King*.

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### REVIVE, EXCITED TO RELEASE ITS MUSIC ON INTERNATIONAL STAGE

A Sydney band that sold everything they own to seek a Christian music career in America, this week releases its debut international album *Chorus Of The Saints* signed to Sony imprint Essential Records.

Revive scored the deal after the global music giant initially turned then down.

Lead singer Dave Hanbury says it's "exciting" to finally release its CD on an international stage.

"We're really excited to get our single played on American radio, and get our products in American stores," Hanbury says.

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### MERCYME CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNATURE TUNE

Finally, MercyMe is set to celebrate the tenth anniversary of its frontman Bart Millard penning the song *I Can Only Imagine*.

The touching, personal song about his father's early death catapulted the group to nothing short of superstardom in both Christian and mainstream music,

To mark this epic anniversary, and to celebrate one of the most powerful songs and popular groups in Christian music history, MercyMe next month releases a new CD/DVD set that showcases twelve number one singles and videos that span MercyMe's already storied career.

"10" also includes a brand new recording of *I Can Only Imagine*, recorded with the London Symphony Orchestra.