

05 January 2010

MAT KEARNEY AND BRANDON HEATH NAB TRAA HONORS

Australia's national Christian music charts, *The Rock Across Australia (TRAA)*, today announced Mat Kearney's *Closer To Love* as the *2009 Song of the Year*, and honored 30 year old American singer Brandon Heath as *2009 Artist of the Year*.

This is first time Mat Kearney (pronounced Karni) and Brandon Heath have earned TRAA honors.

The internationally acclaimed American singer/songwriter who has toured with John Mayer, The Fray and newsboys spent eight weeks atop TRAA with *Closer To Love*, the lead single from his *City Of Black & White* album.

Best known for his 2007 song *Nothing Left To Lose* which peaked at #41 on the Billboard Hot 100, Kearney regards himself as a mainstream act. His music is included in TRAA because of parallel distribution in the Christian sector.

Brandon Heath garnered Artist honors for three songs – *Wait And See*, *Give Me Your Eyes*, and *Follow You* (a duet with Leeland) – with each landing in the top half of TRAA's end of year chart. His songs spent a total of 56 weeks in the survey with dual listings for some weeks.

Other contenders for TRAA awards this year included Francesca Battistelli. The US singer songwriter was the only act to score two number ones (*Free To Be Me*, and *It's Your Life*).

TRAA's annual airplay accolades recognise the artist or group gaining the most airplay on Australian Christian radio, plus the individual song generating the most airplay.

TRAA - published by Woodlands Media - compiles its weekly charts aggregating high rotation activity (derived from playlist reports, and airplay monitoring) across more than 20 stations in capital cities and regional markets.

The Rock Across Australia's 2009 Top 100 Songs and Top 50 Artists Chart are available online here:

www.therockacrossaustralia.com/annual/TRAA-091231-Top100.doc

The Rock Across Australia's analysis of 2009 is available here:

www.therockacrossaustralia.com/annual/TRAA-091231-Analysis.doc

PREVIOUS TRAA HONORS

2008	Song of the Year	<i>This Is Home - Switchfoot</i>
	Artist of the Year	Britt Nicole
2007	Song of the Year	<i>Something Beautiful - newsboys</i>
	Artist of the Year	newsboys
2006	Song of the Year	<i>Like You Love Me - Nathan Tasker</i>
	Artist of the Year	Nathan Tasker
2005	Song of the Year	<i>Gloria (All God's Children) - Paul Colman</i>
	Artist of the Year	Bethany Dillon
2004	Song of the Year	<i>Beautiful - Bethany Dillon</i>
	Artist of the Year	Jars Of Clay
2003	Song of the Year	<i>(There's Gotta Be) More to Life - Stacie Orrico</i>
	Artist of the Year	Stacie Orrico
2002	Song of the Year	<i>Purified - Michael W Smith</i>
	Artist of the Year	Michael W. Smith
2001	Song of the Year	<i>These Thousand Hills - Third Day</i>
	Artist of the Year	Paul Colman Trio
2000	Song of the Year	<i>Shackles (Praise You) - Mary Mary</i>
	Artist of the Year	Paul Colman Trio
1999	Song of the Year	<i>There's No Power in Pity - Cliff Richard</i>
	Artist of the Year	dc Talk