

DUAL HONORS FOR NATHAN TASKER

Australia's national Christian music charts, *The Rock Across Australia (TRAA)*, today named Australian singer songwriter Nathan Tasker as the 2006 Artist of the Year, and recipient of the Song of the Year honor for *Like You Love Me*.

The annual airplay accolades recognise:

- o The artist or group gaining the most airplay on Australian Christian radio, plus
- o The individual song that generates the most airplay across the nation's largest Christian stations.

This is the third time that a solo performer has garnered both honors in the same year.

Stacie Orrico achieved this in 2003, and Michael W. Smith in 2002.

But 2006 is the first time an Australian has earned both honors in the same year.

Tasker, who now resides in Nashville, has achieved six Top 10 TRAA successes in his career including *Your Love Changes Me*, *Underneath*, *Waiting*, and *Floating*.

In 2006, Tasker spent more time atop TRAA during the year than any other artist.

Like You Love Me and *Narrow* both went to number one for a period totaling 11 weeks. [Eight weeks, and three weeks respectively.]

Both songs were released on Tasker's landmark CD *Must Be More* which the legendary Charlie Peacock (Audio Adrenaline, Switchfoot and Rich Mullins) produced in America.

The Rock Across Australia, known as TRAA in the Christian music and radio community, researches weekly airplay information from playlists supplied by 25 of the nation's largest Christian stations including FM103.2 (Sydney), Light FM (Melbourne), 96Five (Brisbane), Life FM (Adelaide), Sonshine FM (Perth), 96Three (Geelong), and the Vision Radio Network (national).

The Rock Across Australia this week publishes its annual song and artist reports online at www.therockacrossaustralia.com.

The reports include:

- o TRAA's 2006 Top 100 Most Played Songs,
- o TRAA's 2006 Top 50 Most Played Artists, plus
- o TRAA's 2006 Overview listing the number one songs of the year, the longest stayers, songs that appear in the 2005 and 2006 end of year reports, artists with the most songs in the Top 100, as well as a look at new and 'retiring' artists, and more.



Nathan Tasker

PHIL JOEL, OLD BOY

Bassist Phil Joel has left newsboys to devote more time to family and personal goals.

Since joining the band in 1995, Phil has made a significant contribution to newsboys, co-writing all the songs on *Step Up To The Microphone* and *Love Liberty Disco*; as well as the songs *Breathe*, *Cup O'Tea*, *Breathe (Benediction)*, *Joy*, *Praise*, *Who, I Love Your Ways*, plus *Wherever We Go* and *Your Love Is Better Than Life* from the group's most recent CD, *Go*.



newsboys with Phil Joel in the back.

Phil sang lead vocals on *Entertaining Angels* with the boys, and was the first newsboy to release a solo album.

He finished up with the band on New Year's Eve, but as far as Phil's concerned, he'll always be a newsboy.

"I've grown up with the guys and they'll always be brothers to me," Phil says.

"The past twelve and a half years have been amazing. It will remain a strong part of who I am", he adds.

Frontman Peter Furler says the band will miss him.

"We appreciate Phil, and wish him and his family only the best for the future," Peter remarks.

Phil will focus on his *Deliberate People* project which aims to encourage Christians to read the Bible, and spend more time with God.

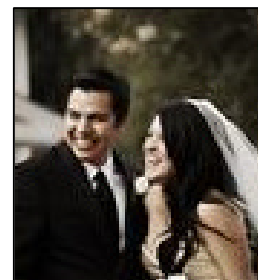
newsboys will continue as a four piece with Paul Colman and Jeff Frankenstein sharing additional vocal and bass duties.

SMS

Jaci Velasquez has married Nic Gonzales, the lead singer of **Salvador**.

Deb Fung has launched her new CD *Whoever You Are* in Sydney and Melbourne. **Matt Lucas** opened for her.

Switchfoot has launched a new website project to support its latest CD, *Oh! Gravity* at www.ohgravity.com. The site features video clips of gravity at work with clips of surfing, biking, and various other accidents. Fans can also contribute to the celebration of pain, as the site will continue to grow and develop the more people send in videos.



Nic and Jaci

Roma Waterman is presenting an eight week accredited Bible College course entitled *Creative Worship* at the Christian City Church Whitehorse School of Empowered Ministry, from 30 January. The course looks at the artist and the church, the artist in history, the artist and the future (what does a "god artist" look like?), and more. Details from Hannah Easton at CCCW on 03 9837 2900, or sem@cccw.org.au