

ROMA WRAPS UP BUSY YEAR

Melbourne singer/songwriter Roma Waterman caps off another busy year with appearances on two leading Christmas TV programs this week.

Tonight (Christmas Eve), Roma leads The Melbourne Gospel Choir backing Jon Stevens singing the gospel favorite, *O Happy Day at the Carols by Candlelight* at the Myer Music Bowl.

Tomorrow (Christmas Day), Waterman sings *O Come All Ye Faithful* on Wesley Mission's *Rise and Shine* – which airs on Channel 9 at 6:00AM, and on the Australian Christian Channel at 3PM. [Darlene is also featured in the program.]

Roma recently performed with her beloved Melbourne Gospel Choir to more than 7000 people at *The Wyndham Carols by Candlelight* at Werribee Mansion.

And earlier this month, she joined good friend Marina Prior and *Australian Idol* runner-up Matt Corby at the Christian City Church Whitehorse *White Christmas* event.

The Christmas activity caps off another busy year for Roma Waterman who has divided her time between speaking at women's conferences and events, producing and singing on the new Christian City Church Whitehorse worship album (*Flow*), and writing a new book on being "a God artist".



Roma Waterman

MELBOURNE GETS REZFEST

THE performers for Melbourne's newest gospel music festival, RezFest, have just been announced.

Headline acts include Jars Of Clay, Newsboys, Alabaster Box, and Planetshakers.

The festival, to be held on Easter Sunday and Monday, will be staged beneath a giant marquee at the historic Point Cook Homestead, a beachfront property overlooking Port Phillip Bay in Melbourne's West.

Outgoing Wyndham mayor Shane Bourke says the event will be a great way to spend the Easter weekend.

He says that attracting some of Christian music's most popular bands is a great coup for the festival.

The festival is being organised by the Wyndham Council and the Wyndham Ministers Network.

Melbourne has hosted several Christian music festivals including *Sonfest* in the early 00s, and *Jam* over two years in the late 80s both at the Myer Music Bowl.



newsboys

ALABASTER BOX BREAKS ITS SILENCE

Alabaster Box will release its new CD *We Will Not Be Silent* early 2008.

Lead singer Naarah Seagrott says the new CD heralds a fresh new rock sound for the band as well as a "more powerful message".

Fans can preview the song *Bigger* at its myspace page.

AB will launch the CD on its Australian and NZ tours during the New Year, and perform with newsboys in Sydney, Melbourne's Rezfest, and Easterfest 08.



Alabaster Box

The band that now resides in Nashville is back in Australia for the holidays.

SMS

Paul Colman is recording a number of covers to release on album mid 2008. Paul says the new CD will include his take on songs written by Delirious?, Larry Norman, Reuben Morgan, DC Talk, Whiteheart, and Michael W Smith.

Nathan Tasker is back in Australia for Christmas. In January and early February, he'll present a handful of performances in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.



Paul Colman

ABC TV's *Rage* is airing two TRAA hits - **Edwin Derricutt's** *Symmetry* and **Gus' Rain Down**.

Michael W. Smith, Chris Tomlin, Steven Curtis Chapman, Darlene Zschech, Matt Redman, Tim Hughes, and other Christian songwriters will travel to Scotland next month to create music for CompassionArt, a charity spearheaded by **Martin Smith**.

After a four-year hiatus from recording, singer/songwriter **Steven Delopoulos** issued his sophomore album as a digital download. Produced by Monroe Jones and released independently through Jones' Eb+Flo imprint, *Straightjacket* sees Delopoulos furthering his enthralling brand of folk, pop, and Greek music elements that were prevalent in his critically acclaimed solo debut, *Me Died Blue*. Delopoulos rose to prominence in 1998 as frontman of **Burlap to Cashmere**.

Aussie Christian rock band **Revive** recently picked up the award for "Best Christian/Spiritual Artist" at the seventh annual MusicOz awards. The awards recognise the leading independent artists within Australia.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

A happy Christmas to you from the team at *The Rock Across Australia*, *The Reality Zone*, *Behind The Music*, and Woodlands Media. Look out for the Top 100 songs of 2007 online from New Year's Day.