



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEELAND RELEASES *THE GREAT AWAKENING* AMID A FLURRY OF ACCLAIM AND THE LAUNCH OF THE “SOUNDS OF HOPE” TOUR

**Early Reviews Call Leeland’s Fourth Project: "Captivating," "Flawless,"
"The Worship Album Of The Year" and “A Worship Revival Experience”**

(Nashville, Tenn.) September 20, 2011- Three-time GRAMMY and eight-time GMA Dove Award nominated band **Leeland** drops its fourth national release *The Great Awakening* today on Essential Records. Since Leeland debuted its acclaimed *Sound of Melodies* in 2006, this progressive worship band has become one of the most respected and influential voices in worship music. The 11-track “worship revival experience” was produced by Paul Moak (Third Day, Matt Maher). Leeland is lead singer Leeland Mooring; brother, Jack Mooring on keys, and drummer Mike Smith – along with new member (and Moorings’ younger sister and bassist) Shelly Mooring.

The acclaimed release has garnered stellar reviews and features and is currently running, or set to run, in outlets including *Worship Leader*, gmc, JesusFreakHideout.com, New Release Tuesday, *CCM Magazine*, *YouthWalk*, Crosswalk.com, Beliefnet.com, and Alphaomeganews.org, with numerous additional placements confirmed for upcoming issues. Below are a few highlights on reflecting Leeland and *The Great Awakening*:

"Leeland indeed seem in step with their art. They are revitalized and refreshed and have taken a giant creative leap forward." - *Worship Leader Magazine*

“...*The Great Awakening* is the best kind of en-mass singalong, full of energy and excitement... Leeland consistently aims high and delivers on the songwriting front. Bottom line: If you’re in serious need of a little unrestrained ‘church,’ a mini-shot of revival to get you pointed in the right direction, Leeland’s *The Great Awakening* is just the project to take you there.” – gmc

"This is the most spine-tingling worship project I've ever experienced and these eleven songs are all completely anointed, Spirit-led and emotionally captivating. *The Great Awakening* is flawless and overflows with worship-driven emotional responses to our Lord and Savior. This is the top worship album of the year!" - NewReleaseTuesday.com

"With...*The Great Awakening*, they are making some very different leaps in an onward and upward fashion....Frontman Leeland Mooring's vocals are at the top of his game and, at points in the album, it feels like he didn't write any of the words he sings but just recorded himself praying to a melody. The purpose of the album is obviously to spark a spiritual awakening in the Church and they do not miss the mark in portraying it. There is definitely no mistaking that it's Leeland, but this time there seems to be a deep sense of divine inspiration. Expect good things with *The Great Awakening*..."

The band also recently filmed an in studio series called “The Live Sessions.”

For a look at its first installment, which features the title track "The Great Awakening," visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Mj8I1chdB0> The “Sessions” can also be found on Leeland’s homepage under “featured media.”

The band’s recent visits and concerts around the world, visiting everywhere from Peru to Japan for its support of Food For The Hungry, also inspired and helped shape *The Great Awakening*. Leeland is ready to share these new songs with audiences everywhere and are more than ready to share them starting this weekend as they hit the road with Building 429 and Royal Tailor on the “Sounds Of Hope” Tour, beginning this Friday. Sponsored by Food For the Hungry. visit www.leelandonline.com. Tour dates are listed here:

The “Sounds Of Hope” Tour*:

9/23 - Friendswood, TX
9/24 - Victoria, TX
9/25 - Kilgore, TX
9/29 - Nashville, TN
9/30 - Lynchburg, VA
10/1 - Fayetteville, NC
10/2 - Martinsburg, WV
10/7 - Shakopee, MN
10/8 - Chicago, IL
10/9 - Sioux City, IA
10/10 - Kearney, NE
10/12 - Princeton, WV
10/13 - New Wilmington, PA
10/14 - Woodstock, VA
10/15 - Ft. Wayne, IN
10/20 - Shreveport, LA
10/21 - Moultrie, GA
10/22 - Lucedale, MS
10/23 - Thomasville, AL
10/27 - N. Massapequa, NY
10/28 - Seekonk, MA
10/29 - E. Longmeadow, MA
10/30 - Houghton, NY
11/4 - Vero Beach, FL
11/5 - Fitzgerald, GA
11/6 - Dothan, AL
11/7 - Brunswick, GA
11/11 - Mt. Vernon, OH
11/12 - Elmhurst, IL
11/13 - Mequon, WI

*Tour dates subject to change. Please visit Leeland’s website and follow the band on twitter @leelandofficial.

About Leeland:

Hailing from Houston, GRAMMY-nominated progressive rock act **Leeland** comprises Leeland

Mooring (lead vocals, guitar); Jack Mooring (keyboard, background vocals); Shelley Mooring (bass); and Mike Smith (drums). The group has been known to deliver songwriting beyond its years and worshipful rock so genuine it disarms the honest cynic. Often quoted as one of Christian music's most gripping live bands, Leeland's 2006 debut *Sound of Melodies* as well as follow up projects *Opposite Way* (2008) and *Love Is On The Move* (2010) have established **Leeland** as a leader in the worship community and beyond. All three albums were GRAMMY nominated and drew a combined eight GMA Dove Award nominations.

In February, Leeland and Jack Mooring were selected by the White House to participate in the Compassion in Action Roundtable spotlighting the innovative leadership of an emerging generation of social entrepreneurs in America. On top of non-stop touring across the U.S. and Japan, the band also partners with Christian relief organization Food for the Hungry. **Leeland** has recently taken outreach trips to Africa, Asia, and attended Hillsong Church's 2008 Conference in Australia.

For more information on **Leeland** and *The Great Awakening*, please visit:
www.leelandonline.com, www.facebook.com/leeland or www.providentpress.com.

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