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MATT MAHER'S "YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH" CLIMBS TO CCLI'S NO. 13

Maher's Writing Gains Acclaim as "Empty & Beautiful" Garners Momentum at Radio

(Nashville, Tenn.) March 3, 2009 – “Your Grace Is Enough,” the modern worship classic, written by Essential Records recording artist **MATT MAHER**, saw strong gains in church exposure during the spring and summer of 2008, according to Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI), which tracks the popularity of music in churches across the U.S.

According to CCLI's tracking system, “Your Grace Is Enough” was the 13th most popular song sung in churches in the United States for the April-September 2008 tracking period. That represents an 18-point jump for the song over the previous tracking period. Over the past 6 month period, “Your Grace Is Enough” has been sung in nearly 150,000 CCLI licensed churches in the U.S., which translates to more than 5 million people singing this song. “Your Grace Is Enough” is ranked alongside “How Great Is Our God,” “Blessed Be Your Name” and “Here I Am To Worship.”

Rick Muchow, Pastor of Worship at Saddleback Church, shares, “Matt’s song, ‘Your Grace Is Enough’, is connecting with churches of many shapes and sizes because it biblically addresses a universally relevant theme and it’s melody is congregationally singable while adaptable to many worship styles. It is both a song that can be prayed and a prayer that can be sung!”

“I love this song,” shares Joel Hudson, Venue Worship Pastor, Thompson Station Church in Thompson Station, TN. “I’m reminded of Paul’s words in Philippians...whatever was gain, whether position, religious accomplishment, or zeal amounts to nothing in comparison to knowing Christ---and that’s all from grace--His grace is enough. In fact it’s everything!”

“It is very unusual for a song to make this big of a jump to such a high position on the CCLI chart”, says Jimi Williams, Director of Worship Resources for EMI CMG Publishing. “I think it speaks to the wide embrace that the song has received within the church and to the influence of Christian radio.”

“Your Grace Is Enough” appears as the leadoff track of Maher’s Essential Records debut *Empty & Beautiful* (4/8/08), as well as on Tomlin’s 2004 release, *Arriving*. Maher’s relentless touring and radio exposure during 2008 helped fuel the song’s rise within CCLI.

“Your Grace Is Enough” was one of the most spun songs at Christian AC radio in 2008 and “Empty & Beautiful,” Matt’s current radio single, is already receiving glowing reviews from highly-influential stations including WPOZ in Orlando and KCMS in Seattle.

Impressively, Maher’s writing was once again accessed by Tomlin for his latest single, “I Will Rise” which is also seeing success at radio since its launch just a few months ago.

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Matt, known for his unique ability to connect in a live setting, will be a featured part of the “**Worshiptogether.com Live Tour**,” launching March 14 and running through March 24. The tour reflects the heart of worshiptogether.com by offering a day of worship training that ends with a concert with top worship leaders including Matt Maher, Tim Hughes, The Michael Gungor Band, Kelly Minter and Al Gordon. For more information, including dates and cities, please visit: www.worshiptogether.com/live.

Following the “Worshiptogether.com Live Tour” Maher will continue to tour on the strength of *Empty & Beautiful*, as he simultaneously prepares to go back into the studio to record his sophomore Essential Records project slated for release later this year.

About Matt Maher:

Matt Maher, worship leader, songwriter, singer and recording artist, has taken his calling as a “musical missionary” to create a substantial impact on a national and global stage. As an award-winning songwriter, Maher gained notice as the co-writer of the internationally renowned modern-worship song, “Your Grace Is Enough,” recorded by Chris Tomlin.

Highly sought after for his poignant yet poetic writing style, Matt has recently had songs recorded by such artists as Tomlin; Bethany Dillon; Phillips, Craig & Dean; Brenton Brown and others. In addition, Maher’s songs can be found in (and climbing beyond) the top 15 ranked songs on the CCLI chart, marking their popularity in church worship-services around the world.

Maher’s current project *Empty & Beautiful* (Essential Records 4/8/08), his first major-label project after three independent releases, has jumpstarted his work as a touring artist placing him in front of audiences worldwide, totaling more than 750,000 in 2008 alone. He has shared recent stages with artists such as Tomlin, Leeland, MercyMe, Michael W. Smith and Jeremy Camp.

Amid busy touring and writing schedules, Maher finds it important to serve alongside ministries including Life Teen, Adore Ministries, and Catholic Relief Services while still playing an active role with Oregon Catholic Press’ spiritandsong.com. Further, he serves as a regular host for Worship Together’s “Newsong Café,” has performed live on “FOX & Friends” has written for *Billboard Magazine* and is an active, bylined contributor to *OnFaith.com* (www.newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith), an interactive conversation on religion. Most recently, Maher was featured on the covers of *Breakaway* and *Christian Single*. For up-to-date information on Matt Maher, please visit www.mattmahermusic.com

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