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DOVE AWARDS, WINNERS FOR MAJOR CATEGORIES

Veteran Christian artist Steven Curtis Chapman has capped an emotional year by winning Artist Of The Year during the Gospel Music Association's Dove Awards held in Nashville Tennessee on Thursday.

Chapman took home top honors for the seventh time in his two decade career. To date, he's collected five Grammy Awards and 56 Dove Awards. The largest number of Doves awarded to one artist.

Natalie Grant won the Female Vocalist trophy for the fourth year in a row.

Brandon Heath won Male Vocalist, and Song Of The Year for *Give Me Your Eyes*.

Casting Crowns secured Group Of The Year for the fifth consecutive year, while Tenth Avenue North was dubbed New Artist Of The Year.

Australians Reuben Morgan and Ben Fielding notched up their first win nabbing Worship Song Of The Year for *Mighty To Save*.

The song has been recorded numerous times with the best known versions being from Reuben (solo), Michael W Smith, Laura Story (who wrote *Indescribable* for Chris Tomlin), Matt Redman, Don Moen, Seventh Day Slumber, Lakewood Church, Hillsong Church, and Hillsong United.

Reuben says it's a "great honor" to be recognised by one's peers.

"To be recognised in America, and be embraced by the American Church is a real honor," he says.

"I'm pretty overwhelmed. I didn't really expect it at all.

"When *Mighty To Save* was announced as the winner, we were asking 'is this really happening?'

"It's taken a bit to get our heads around it, but we praise God for the opportunity," he says.

You can hear Reuben's comments here:

<http://www.therockacrossaustralia.com/audio/090424ReubenMorgan.mp3>

The Dove awards are Christian music's equivalent of a Grammy. The Christian music sector in America today is larger than the entire Australian music scene.

Complete list of winners here:

http://www.gospelmusic.org/newsmedia/pressRoom_detail.aspx?iid=40927&tid=33

HILLSONG UNITED READIES FOR NEW US TOUR AND CD RELEASE

Sydney based worshippers Hillsong United return to the US throughout the next three months for a series of runs impacting 20 cities.

The visits which will take place over the US spring and summer are built around the May release of its new CD and companion digital songbook *Across The Earth: Tear Down The Walls*.

This is United's first new live CD since 2006 featuring 12 songs including a new version of Brooke Fraser's *Desert Song*, plus 11 new songs written by Joel Houston, Reuben Morgan, Matt Crocker, Dylan Thomas, and more.

More details available at <http://www.hillsongunited.com>