

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**INDEPENDENT CLASSICAL CROSS-OVER ARTIST, MICHEAL CASTALDO
ANNOUNCES HIS FIRST CHRISTMAS ALBUM
EXTRAVERGINE - NATALE NEL MEDITERRANEO/CHRISTMAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
AVAILABLE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2011**

NEW YORK, NY - October 17, 2011 - MICHEAL CASTALDO, the independent classical cross-over artist will release his much anticipated, first Christmas album on Tuesday, November 22, 2011, entitled **EXTRAVERGINE**, subtitled, **NATALE NEL MEDITERRANEO/CHRISTMAS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**. The album offers up sacred, liturgical carols sung in Italian or Latin. Seasonal favorites include "OH SANTA NOTTE (Oh Holy Night)," "E NATO IL BAMBINO GESU (What Child Is This?)," "BATTE NEL CUORE, SUONA NATALE (Little Drummer Boy)," "GIOIA NEL MONDO (Joy To The World)," "PUOI SENTIRE QUEL' CHE SENT IO? (Do You hear What I Hear?)," "ASTRO DEL CIEL (Silent Night)." CASTALDO himself also translated the well-known Polish carol, "Jezus Malusuenki" now entitled, "PICCOLO JESU." Completing the perfect package, CASTALDO also offers up "GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO," "TU SCENDI DALLE STELLE," "VA PENSIERO" and "ADESTE FIDELES." The album artwork features a wreath woven of olive branches, which not only references its religious nature and biblical significance of the holiday, but evolves this edible, fragrant species of evergreen tree into perfect harmony with the truest essence of its solemnity as only CASTALDO can deliver.

CASTALDO is an award-winning Italian classical-crossover tenor whose work has been called a "plush world of ballads and utter sweetness" by celebritycafe.com and "the perfect complement to an Italian music collection" by *La Gazzetta Italiana*. His family's orchards in the foothills of Calabria, Italy, where Michéal lived until age 3, have long been committed to producing and distributing fresh and vibrant olive oil at affordable prices. "The result, 'Private Reserve' olive oil... is a textbook olive oil: just the right color, flavor and texture to appeal to everyone," as described by thenibble.com, the online magazine about specialty foods for the connoisseur. Knowing this, one can understand the entrepreneurial spirit of CASTALDO. The album's titles unite all aspects of the artist, his roots to his villa and olive orchard in Calabria and his desire to serve up quality music to feed the needs of his listeners.

EXTRAVERGINE is the perfect recipe of sound and melodic timbre eager to whet the appetite of the listener and sure to delight the discerning ear. The lush orchestrations and well-crafted arrangements are mixed masterfully with the warm tenor vocals of CASTALDO. The listener is taken on an auric holiday journey of Mediterranean-sounds replete with both east and west influences. Each track builds upon one another all giving the perfect vehicle for CASTALDO's piece de resistance, his voice. CASTALDO has given us the perfect gift this Christmas!

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