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INTERNATIONAL SONGWRITER COMPETITION COMES TO AUSTIN

Top Five songs to be performed June 16 and broadcast internationally.

AUSTIN - An international songwriter competition, the first of its kind to be held in central Texas, has yielded a winner from northeast Texas who will perform his song live on June 16 in Austin, Texas.

Modeled in part after the wildly successful Fox Network program, *American Idol*, the *Awakening Songwriter Showcase* was designed to provide an opportunity for Christian songwriters to showcase their talents.

Randy Phillips, Pastor of the Promise Land Church in Austin and also a recording artist and songwriter with the award winning trio *Phillips, Craig and Dean*, said he can appreciate how difficult it can be to break into the music business. "It's very competitive in the music industry. There are thousands of songwriters and recording artists trying to get their music published and recorded. Many of these people are extremely talented, yet never get the chance to be heard. The *Showcase* was designed to provide an opportunity for some of these folks to get their music heard by millions of people around the globe." Phillips also heads up *The Awakening*, a unique praise and worship television program in its third season, which is broadcast in all 50 states and on TBN in several foreign countries. The winning songs from the *Showcase* will be sung live on June 16 at the next *The Awakening* taping.

The previous *Awakening Songwriter Showcase* winner, Michael Farren from Wake Village Texas, beat out over 250 other contestants from around the world (including entries from Tajikistan, Sweden, and Uganda) to take first place in the competition with his song entitled, "Let the Worshippers Arise." Farren, lead singer for the Christian band *Pocket Full of Rocks*, received an all-expense paid trip to Austin where he will perform his song on *The Awakening*. Other winners whose songs will also be performed at the June 16 taping include: Cherie Daniel and Brad Jerkins (*Holy Kiss*), Warner Robbins, Georgia; Marlene Watson and Hector Soto (*Praise His Name*), Humble, Texas; Nick Coetzee and David Baroni (*The Glory of His Name*), Riverview, Florida; and Rick Vasquez (*You Are*), Ft. Worth, Texas.

The taping of *The Awakening Songwriter Showcase* will be held Wednesday, June 16, 7 p.m., at the Promise Land Church, 1504 East 51st Street, Austin, Texas (located at IH-35 and 51st, across from the old Robert Mueller Airport.). The event is free and open to the public and the media.

If you would like to conduct an interview with Randy Phillips, the winning songwriters, or any other persons associated with the *Songwriter Showcase* or *The Awakening*, please contact Heather Tindall at 512-383-1229.

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