



For Immediate Release: December 18, 2006  
Media Contact: Kelli Demetri, Vic Gutman & Associates, (402) 345-5401,  
kdemetri@vgagroup.com

### **“Share the Beat” Benefit Brings Hollywood Celebrities and Nashville Artists Together for Special Evening in Omaha**

“Share The Beat,” a benefit presented by the James Redford Institute for Transplant Awareness (JRI) and the University of Nebraska Medical Center, will be held at the Joslyn Art Museum’s Witherspoon Hall on Saturday, March 10, 2007. JRI founder, writer and filmmaker James Redford, and his father, the Academy Award-winning actor/director Robert Redford, will participate in the event.



James Denton, better known to *Desperate Housewives* fans as hunky plumber Mike Delfino, will host this special evening. Denton, who originally hails from Nashville, recently completed his first feature film *Wanted: Undead or Alive* with *Saturday Night Live* alum Chris Kattan. Other acting credits include roles in the movies *Primary Colors* and *Face/Off* and on NBC’s hit drama *The Pretender*. Faith Hill, Tim McGraw, Phil Vassar, Rivers Rutherford and Alana Grace will provide the evening’s entertainment.

Nashville’s reigning power couple, Faith Hill and Tim McGraw have amassed an astounding six Grammy wins, four Country Music Association awards, five People’s

Choice Awards and many other accolades too numerous to mention.

Hill’s latest release, *Fireflies*, debuted at #1 on Billboard’s Top Pop Album Chart and Country Chart. Her powerful voice and crossover appeal have driven the sale of more than 30 million albums. One of the world’s most widely known artists, Hill has produced three network television specials; is a frequent guest on major talk shows such as *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Good Morning America* and *The Tonight Show*; and has also graced the cover of a variety of magazines ranging from *People* to *Marie Claire*.

With his 23 #1 hit singles including “I Like It, I Love It” and “Live Like You Were Dyin’,” McGraw has achieved an amazing level of success. To date, he has released ten albums with an eleventh release currently in production. Hill and McGraw recently concluded their 2006 Soul2Soul II Tour which was declared the top grossing tour in the history of country music.





One of Nashville's favorite talents, Phil Vassar, will perform songs from the four albums he has recorded since 2000. A talented songwriter, the Lynchburg, Virginia native wrote chart-topping hits for Alan Jackson, Collin Raye, Tim McGraw and BlackHawk before recording his own work. In 2002, he received the Academy of Country Music's Top New Male Vocalist award. Known for his high-energy concerts, Vassar was discovered in a Nashville restaurant that he owned and performed in during the weekends.

Rivers Rutherford has accomplished six number-one singles as a songwriter: Brooks & Dunn's "Ain't Nothing 'Bout You"; Tim McGraw's "Real Good Man"; Montgomery Gentry's first number one, "If You Ever Stop Loving Me", which he also produced; Gretchen Wilson's "Homewrecker"; Brad Paisley's duet with Dolly Parton, "When I Get Where I'm Going" (which has received both 2006 ACM and CMA nominations for 'Song of the Year') and Kenny Chesney's "Livin' In Fast Forward". Receiving ASCAP's Songwriter of the Year trophy for 2006, Rutherford states "I'm trying not to look back, I focus on what's still to come. When I'm happy is when I know I've written something I really love." While Rivers continues to enjoy songwriting success, he plans to expand performing and recording while currently producing material for artists such as Montgomery Gentry and Cole Deggs.



Kicking off the evening's entertainment, 18-year-old Alana Grace will perform songs from her debut album *Break the Silence*. Although she hails from Nashville, her style of music is rock, not country. Grace's introspective and emotionally charged songs have led many to compare the young artist to Alanis Morissette.

Grace captured the national spotlight with her performance of the hit *Black Roses Red* on *The Today Show* in 2005. The song is also featured on the soundtrack to the movie *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*.

Tickets to "Share the Beat" will be available through The Rose Theater December 18. General reserved seating will be sold for \$150 per ticket and premium reserved seating tickets cost \$200 each. Patron tickets will be sold for \$500 and feature premiere seating, complimentary valet parking and the opportunity to meet and mingle with the performers during a post-event dessert reception. Beginning December 18, tickets may be purchased at The Rose Box Office, 2001 Farnam Street, by calling (402) 345-4849 or by going on-line at [www.SharetheBeat.org](http://www.SharetheBeat.org).

###